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No written warnings expected in Mashaal Affair Report: Yatom warned verbally by Ciechanover

By ARIEN O'SULLIVAN

The commission investigating the failed assassination of Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal issued a verbal warning to Mossad chief Danny Yatom and another top official that they are likely to be harmed by its report, Channel 2 reported last night.

It also reported that Yatom testified yesterday before the commission, headed by El Al chairman Joseph Ciechanover. It was reportedly the third time that Yatom has testified, and it was apparently at his request, since he wished to refute charges made by others in his testimony.

Yatom was reportedly warned that he is likely to suffer from the conclusions of the investigation into the bungled September 25 operation in Amman.

The report said that a decision was made to give the warnings verbally, instead of in writing. It noted that the warning concerned only their actions regarding the Mashaal, not their futures with the Mossad.

The other person who was warned, according to the report, was "H," Yatom's unofficial deputy and head of operations, who has been identified by foreign reports as Haim Keiry.

The reports strengthened speculation that the panel would place most of the blame for the abortive assassination on the Mossad, and not on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

According to the report, Ciechanover did not want to blame any individuals, but fellow commission members Rafi Peled and Dan Tolowsky disagreed. They then sought the opinions of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel, who backed Peled and Tolowsky and ruled that in light of the gravity of the matter, the committee is obliged to consider recommendations against those involved and to warn them that they may be harmed.

Sources close to the inquiry said the commission is expected to finalize its conclusions soon. But now that Yatom and "H" have been warned, they have the right to see material pertaining to them and refute the charges, the report said.

AGENDA
By ABRAHAM BAR-YOSEF

Clinton's ultimatum

At the beginning of the week, a significant report on CNN radio generated no response from Jerusalem, as the item drowned in the sea of local news, ranging from the murder-suicide of Anat Elimelech and David Afuta to the general strike that broke out following a slip of the tongue by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

CNN's political reporter, Steve Hurst, reported on Monday that US President Bill Clinton plans to announce a

Exclusive maps, Page 3

change in America's official policy on the Middle East "that will include support for a viable Palestinian entity in the West Bank, whose eastern border would be along the Jordan River and which would have free access to its Arab neighbors."

According to Hurst, the Clinton administration had issued an ultimatum of sorts to Israel, demanding it take significant steps toward stopping construction in the settlements and transferring territory to the Palestinians by the end of the year.

Lenny Davis, deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, reported to Jerusalem the next day that an Israeli investigation into the source of the report revealed that it had come from a briefing by State Department spokesman James Rubin.

But Davis also reported the response of White House spokesman Mike McCurry: "This sounds like those type of speculations that emerge from the region from time to time, and in the end turn out to be misplaced."

See AGENDA, Page 3

Marathon talks held to end strike

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN, LIAT COLLINS, and DAVID HARRIS

Histadrut and Treasury teams entered intensive negotiations last night at President Ezer Weizman's insistence, as the Histadrut threatened to intensify its general strike by shutting the nation's schools today.

Yesterday's strike by 700,000 workers virtually paralyzed the country by effectively shutting down airports, seaports, banks, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, government offices, and state-owned industries.

Weizman told reporters that both sides would "sit down and resume the very discussion that stopped three days ago" late last night, "in the hope and wish that... the strike can end as soon as possible."

He brought about the talks after brokering a reconciliation meeting at his residence yesterday evening between Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, who shook hands for the cameras after their 90-minute talk.

"It's clear to all sides that the damage to the economy is great, the damage to the workers is great," Weizman said. "I won't tell you the matter is over. But one thing is happening - that they're ready to sit. I hope... that by morning they will be able to achieve a few things. And if not, we are in a not-so-good situation."

Histadrut leaders balked at observing a labor court ruling ordering the workers to return to their jobs by 6 p.m.

Peretz avoided calling an end to the strike by appealing to the court for a clarification, and telling the public he was studying the decision.

At their meeting, Peretz handed Neeman a list of demands, asking that he promise to observe all agreements between the government and the Histadrut, including those concerning pensions and wages. Another demand called for privatization and other reforms not to go into effect before negotiations with the Histadrut.

"The moment you sign this," Peretz said, "I'm sending all the workers back to work."

Asked whether he thought a solution would be found, Neeman replied, "I believe in the coming

of the Messiah."

The two were scheduled to meet again at midnight.

Earlier in the day, Peretz met with leaders of the larger unions to discuss ways of intensifying the strike. They made plans to close the schools as part of today's strike.

Avraham Ben-Shabbat, head of the teachers' union, said that schools and kindergartens would get out at 11 a.m. if the local councils continue to strike today. He said this is because the lack of support staff due to the strike has created health and safety hazards in the schools.

Union leaders, angry with Treasury efforts to change pension agreements, said they thought Neeman wants all-out war, and is not interested in negotiating.

"If Neeman really objects to the exorbitant wages given certain



Histadrut Secretary-General Amir Peretz (left) shakes hands with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman (right) while President Ezer Weizman looks on, after an ice-breaking meeting at Beit Hanassi last night. (Flash 90/Courtesy of Ma'ariv)

senior officials on personal contracts with the Treasury's approval, he should have taken Peretz's offer and canceled them," a union source said. "But Neeman ignored the offer, because he wants the public to think all the hired workers are overpaid."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on strikers to return to work. "I don't know what they're striking for. It's a political strike. There is not reason for it," he said.

Netanyahu also maintained that the strike gives the Israeli economy a bad name and that it harms millions of citizens.

In response to a series of motions to the Knesset agenda yesterday, Neeman called on the Histadrut to stop taking measures which he said hurt the workers and their workplaces the most.

He said that funds could not be transferred to local authorities unless the issue of over-inflated salaries is addressed.

Neeman also complained that the Histadrut called the strike despite a promise not to do so at the labor court on Tuesday. He denied calling Histadrut workers a time bomb.

Neeman also said he is willing to discuss the issues under dispute and that the solution to unemployment does not lie in strikes but in a monetary and fiscal policy which encouraged production and export.

Many businessmen and civil servants criticized the strike yesterday as costly and not necessary.

The Manufacturers Association estimated the strike's cost at some NIS 53 million. "We've witnessed these strikes for years, and I think it's better to sort these differences of opinion out by sitting together and not by striking," said association head Dan Propper.

Propper warned that if the strikes continued, foreign investors could be affected.

"Peretz must stop the suffering of hundreds of thousands of citizens by the calling a halt to the Histadrut strike," demanded Union of Local Authorities acting chairman Ze'ev Bielski. The ULA condemned the Histadrut for leaving garbage uncollected, welfare services without staff, and kindergartens unopened.

Hearing the office workers' union threat to ignore court orders and strike again today, ULA spokesman Hillel Goldstein said: "I don't know if that's just bravado or a real threat, but in any case we really urge them to come back to work."

The Israel Merchants Association accused Peretz of irresponsibility. "Employees in private places of work in Israel chose of their own free will not to be organized under the new general Histadrut, and we will always oppose being the tax raisers for the Histadrut," a statement said.

The organization added that commerce was up yesterday as a result of the strike. Turnover in Jerusalem was up 50 percent, in Haifa by 45%, in Ramat Gan 37%, and in Rehovot 32%.

The Civil Service Commission said it is investigating a number of complaints alleging employees were prevented from entering workplaces by strikers. Workers were allegedly barred from entering the Interior Ministry until 10

Ministers meet to map out pullback 'Foreign Report': Mossad fully operational in England again Officials: Syria misinformation negligible

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The four-member cabinet team charged with mapping the extent of the IDF's impending pullback in the West Bank will hold its second session today in an apparent effort to define the geographical scope of the withdrawal in time for Prime Minister Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's talks with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Besides Netanyahu, who heads the team, the members are Foreign Minister David Levy, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Netanyahu said he will present Albright with a detailed plan of the further redeployment at their meeting in Paris tomorrow. However, after a Likud Knesset faction meeting, Netanyahu said that "it will take more time to discuss and formulate decisions with the ministers and [inner] cabinet."

Netanyahu said it is noteworthy that the decision on the redeployment was accepted by a large majority of ministers. He called on the Palestinians not to miss the opportunity to further the peace process.

There were indications that some of Sharon's concepts were influencing the initial phase of deliberations, as reflected by Levy's comment that the ultimate decision would focus on "quality as well as quantity."

The remark is in line with Sharon's notion that the percentage of territory to be relinquished is less important than its strategic value. He maintains, for example, that the relatively large Jordan Valley is vital to Israeli security, but less important to the Palestinian Authority's interest in bringing sections which are more densely populated by Arabs under its jurisdiction.

However, unconfirmed leaks from the initial session suggested that Levy and Mordechai tended to see eye to eye, while Netanyahu tended to support Sharon's territorial thesis.

Representatives of the security forces participated in the opening session, Irim reported.

It quoted Levy as saying he hopes today's meeting will enable Netanyahu to present the gist of the team's considerations to Albright tomorrow, "even if the precise percentage of territory to be evacuated has not yet been defined."

Liav Collins contributed to this report.

By JAY BUSHINSKY and DOUGLAS DAVIS

The government may have been led astray by false information about Syrian policy toward Israel and especially with regard to its motives for participating in the peace process.

An authoritative official said this affair is "an embarrassing and unfortunate mishap," but did not elaborate on its origin or cause.

Its effect on the decisions taken by successive governments could not be determined, but Foreign Minister David Levy declared in a Channel 1 interview that sensitive data "is always cross-checked" and that policy generally is not determined on the basis of a single source. Levy revealed that the government "is checking" this episode in all its aspects.

Israel Radio contended that the data in question was deliberately planted.

See SYRIA, Page 7

Israeli Arabs, Druse want own PM candidate

By DAVID RUDGE

A great majority of Israeli Arab and Druse voters would like to see a candidate representing them run in the next election for prime minister, a survey unveiled yesterday showed.

The findings showed that nearly 75 percent of those surveyed on behalf of Tel Aviv University's Program on Arab Politics in Israel, either strongly or moderately supported having an Arab or

Druse candidate run for prime minister.

In all, some 600 people, representing a cross-section of Arab and Druse communities, were interviewed face-to-face in October and November. The margin of error was 4%.

Those surveyed were asked who they would vote for if elections were held today and the candidates were Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak.

Only 3.2% said they would vote for Netanyahu, compared to 52.3% for Barak. The others said

Analysis, Page 5

they would cast blank ballots, not vote at all, or were undecided.

"In the event of an Arab candidate being fielded, the vote for

Netanyahu remains about the same, while that for Barak drops to 30%," said Dr. Elie Rekhess, director of the Arab politics program, which runs in cooperation with the Adenauer Foundation.

"In such circumstances, the Arab candidate takes 45% of the vote, while those undecided, who would not vote, or would put in blank ballots drops to around 18%," Rekhess said.

See ARABS, Page 7



NEWS

in brief

Red Cross meets Hariri on prisoner swap

Jean-Jacques Fresard, a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, met yesterday with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in negotiations aimed at swapping Lebanese prisoners held by Israel for the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon including naval commando Third Petty Officer Itamar Ily, who officially declared killed in action in October. Fresard handed Hariri a letter on the topic. He refused to talk to reporters after the meeting. Following a similar meeting with Hariri in October, Fresard said the negotiations could take months.

Lebanese groups hold parts of the bodies of Israeli soldiers killed in a botched commando raid in southern Lebanon on September 5. Twelve soldiers died in the incident. AP

Herzliya youth dies in accident

A 14-year-old Herzliya youth died yesterday afternoon after he crashed into a glass door. He had been playing with friends, two of whom ran past the door. He followed and crashed into the door, shattering it, and many shards pierced his body.

The incident occurred across the street from the town's Magen David Adom station, and paramedics were there within minutes, but found him without a pulse and could not revive him. An ambulance brought him to Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Itm

Arafat to visit Iran for first time in decade

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is to visit Iran for the first time in more than a decade next week to attend the Islamic summit in Tehran, Palestinian officials said yesterday. "Arafat will fly to Iran on Monday to attend the Organization of Islamic Countries summit (OIC), especially since he was elected deputy chairman of the OIC summit," Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said. He said Arafat's visit to Iran would be his first in more than a decade and Palestinians hoped the OIC summit would take a strong stance on Jerusalem and protecting Muslim shrines in it. Reuters

Workers defy the union

by HERB KENON

Barbara Rothbart, a Jerusalem nurse, worked alone for most of the morning yesterday in the striking *ripai halav* (family health) clinic in the capital's Mattersdorf neighborhood, unwilling to take part in a work-stoppage she doesn't believe in.

"I don't think the strike was on behalf of the workers," she said, "but part of the conflict between Labor and the current government. It is an attempt to break the Likud government by causing a lot of unrest among the people."

Rothbart was not alone. Across the country there were reports of people who simply ignored the Histadrut's instructions and showed up for work.

Throughout the settlements in Judea and Samaria, for instance, dozens of workers were at their desks as usual. Itm reported that in the majority of the local councils over the Green Line, secretaries answered phones, and local officials continued to work.

"If the Histadrut were to hold a

referendum, most workers would opt not to go out on strike," Rothbart said. "We don't have a strike fund, and when we strike, we are docked pay."

As proof that the strike was politically oriented, Rothbart cited the increased number of strikes over the last 18 months. "It seems to me we are having a lot more strikes since the Likud is in power," she said.

Rothbart, who has worked at the clinic for the last seven years, said that she was the only one of six nurses who showed up for work yesterday. She received words of support from a number of people who had come to the clinic, unaware that it was not working as usual. A pediatrician also worked for a short period, she said.

"In the past I went on strike like everyone else in my department," Rothbart said. "But I finally decided today that enough is enough. I don't understand what this strike is about. There are workers who do support the strikes, there is a socialist mind-set here, but it is not my mind-set, and I'm sure it is not the mind-set of many other workers."

Garbage strike continues

by MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The Tel Aviv sanitation workers' strike continued for the seventh day yesterday, after a meeting of the joint municipal-Histadrut team failed to reach an agreement. The team reportedly made certain progress and was to meet again last night.

Tel Aviv District Court is to rule in the dispute between the workers and City Hall in 10 days, Judge Gavriel Kling decided at yesterday's hearing.

The court refused to grant the workers an interim injunction forbidding the city to hire private contractors to collect the garbage, and will only rule on the principle of whether it is legal to employ the contractors or not, Kling said.

Union head Arnon Bar-David said the city is using old contracts, whose validity has expired, to continue employing contractors originally hired to remove debris and junk from the streets. Bar-David noted the contractors were employed without a public tender.

Albright to push redeployment

by HILLEL KUTTLER and JAY BUSHINSKY

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will press Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for specifics about the government's redeployment plan when the two meet tomorrow in Paris.

Albright also announced late Tuesday that she will meet PA chairman Yasser Arafat in Geneva on Saturday. At the same time, State Department spokesman James Rubin denied that the US is pressuring Israel now, only that it feels a sense of urgency to move the peace process ahead and wants both parties to feel the same.

He also sought to steer reporters away from concluding that Paris

meeting is meant solely to explore the redeployment issue, saying that Albright is as concerned with the other three elements of the US's four-part agenda: a settlement time-out, improved security cooperation and advancing to final-status talks. But he said that while the US is unsure about the specifics of the cabinet's plan, "we will know significant, credible and meaningful redeployment when we see it."

"Some of the floated numbers in the media out of Israel were obviously too low. And similarly, some of the floated numbers out of the Palestinian side were obviously unrealistic high."

Rubin also criticized the announcement this week of construction approval for an additional

900 units in the territories, saying it "does not help to create the kind of environment necessary to achieve success in the Middle East peace process."

Coming just two weeks after Albright met separately with the two in Europe, this weekend's meetings are occurring because the US senses "signs of openings that we can exploit and differences that are narrowing" that justify talks "at the political level," Rubin said, apparently referring to the cabinet's approval Sunday of a redeployment in principle.

On the settlement announcement, Rubin said Albright will also lay out the US's opposition on Friday.

"We feel very strongly that there's no way to have a success-

ful path to permanent status negotiations and certainly no way to have success in those negotiations if the very issues that are so sensitive, that are so emotional, are being affected by actions in the meantime. And so she will be making that point," he said.

Netanyahu is scheduled to fly to Germany today for talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Netanyahu's meeting with Kohl is due to take place in the chancellor's private residence, where the prime minister will join him for a late-evening dinner. It will give the prime minister an opportunity to elaborate on his government's intention to redeploy in the West Bank if the Palestinian Authority upholds all the commitments it made in last January's Hebron

agreement. Netanyahu evidently hopes Kohl will prevail upon the European Union to support this position.

He will then proceed to France, where he will meet Albright and confer with French leaders. He is scheduled to meet French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin after meeting Albright, and will meet President Jacques Chirac after Shabbat.

Diplomatic quarters noted that the French chief of state's consent to see Netanyahu on a Saturday night constitutes a friendly gesture, as such meetings normally do not take place in Paris on Saturdays or Sundays.

Netanyahu is tentatively scheduled to return to Israel before dawn on Sunday.

Strike causes severe disruptions

by MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The nationwide strike, which kept hundreds of thousands of workers off the job yesterday, caused serious disruptions.

Airports, sea ports and railway stations closed down, hospitals operated with skeleton crews and MDA and the Fire and Rescue Service only responded to emergencies.

The strike also included government corporations such as the Israel Electric Corp., Mekorot, Bezeq, the Postal Authority, Israel Aircraft Industries, Rafael and other military industries, banks, local authorities, the legal system (except for the judges) and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The Amidar and Amigur public housing company offices were closed. Many private plants shut down as well.

At the same time, shopping centers were full. Many malls reported sales were up 20-30 percent. Many shoppers wore the round red stickers issued by the Histadrut, saying "I'm a bomb - made by Neeman" in response to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's calling the workers "exploding home-made bombs."

The strike was far from complete, however. In certain ministries, workers arrived for work as usual, after being advised by the Civil Service Commission that strike days would be deducted from their wages.

At the Jerusalem municipality, the strike was complete: there was no garbage collection, parking inspectors or towing illegally parked vehicles.

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv had a



Strike-stranded passengers at Ben-Gurion airport wait yesterday in the departure lounge for further developments. (AP)

water scare yesterday when Mekorot announced the city's water supply was running out, after the striking Mekorot workers shut down the main supply line from the city's primary reservoir in Givatayim.

At mid-day, Mekorot board chairman Doron Grupper advised

the public to use as little water as possible, adding that if the strike continued there would be no water within hours.

In the afternoon Tel Avivians heaved a sigh of relief and emptied the water buckets they had prepared, when Israel Radio announced the water supply "had

stabilized."

Margot Dadevitch adds: The Nesher cement factory in Ramle made deliveries to the Palestinian Authority despite the strike, which idled some 800 workers in the company's Ramle and Haifa plants.

Nothing was delivered to the

Israeli market. But general manager Yossi Bar-Or said that after negotiating with the Histadrut, the factory was permitted to supply the PA.

He explained that the Palestinian market was a competitive one and the factory did not want to lose its customers.

Palestinian laborers allowed to stay overnight

by ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Some Palestinian laborers will now be allowed to remain in the country overnight, defense officials said yesterday. The move is aimed both at easing the travel burden on the Palestinian workers and pressuring employers to hire them instead of foreign laborers.

The Palestinians were informed of the decision during a meeting of the sub-committee on employment, and they praised the move. Eli Paz, a deputy director-general of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, also informed the Palestinians that Israel had decided to implement its policy of cutting the number of foreign workers and would start taking measures to pressure contractors to stop employing them.

There are currently 150,000-200,000 foreign workers, half of whom are illegal. Permission to sleep over will be given to married

Palestinians over 27 who have at least three years of work experience in Israel and have passed a security check by Israel and the Palestinians.

Employers are required to arrange proper sleeping arrangements for their Palestinian workers and fill out a daily security roster to ensure they remain under their responsibility. They are also required to give a reason why their Palestinian employee must sleep in the country.

The permits will also ease the burden at the crossings and allow the Palestinians to work late shifts. "An added benefit over the foreign workers is that Palestinians return home on weekends," said one defense source.

The Labor Ministry's employment office will be responsible for making sure employers arrange proper sleeping arrangements for the Palestinians and do not let them fend for themselves in the streets.

Document claims Allies knew gold had been stolen from victims

by DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The London Conference on Nazi Gold erupted yesterday when the World Jewish Congress produced a previously secret document, proving that the three-nation postwar commission charged with returning plundered state-owned treasure knew it was dealing in gold that had been looted from individual victims.

The Tripartite Gold Commission, comprising the United States, Britain and France, was set up in 1946 to return gold to countries whose treasuries had been plundered by the Nazi occupiers.

So far it has returned 98.6% of the 337 tons of gold it recovered and is about to return the remaining 5.5 tons, worth some \$60 million, to the 15 countries which were looted.

WJC executive director Elan Steinberg produced a copy of a page from the commission's closed archives which clearly demonstrated that members of the commission were aware that some of the gold was not looted state treasure, but the property of individual Holocaust victims.

The document, said Steinberg, was the "tip of the tip of the iceberg" and indicated that the 5.5 tons, which many want to use to

fund compensation to Holocaust survivors, amounted to just a fraction of the total amount of gold that had been looted from individuals, whose claims were never recognized by the commission.

The document showed that parts of the postwar claims by the central banks of Austria, Holland and Belgium were rejected because the commission concluded that the disallowed claims related to "victim gold" (taken from individuals) rather than "monetary gold" (taken from state reserves).

In the case of Austria, which claimed 91 tons of gold, the commission found that while the gold had indeed been removed from the Austrian central bank after the Anschluss, 13% of it had been "compulsorily acquired" from individuals by the Nazis.

That commission held that 13% of Austria's claim could not, therefore, be considered "monetary gold" and part of Austria's national reserves.

Steinberg appealed for the full archives of the commission to be opened before the final allocations of gold are delivered to the claimant countries, so that a claim to the remaining gold can be lodged on behalf of Holocaust victims.

"We have been trying very hard

to reconstruct the Nazi gold trail," said Steinberg, "and those archives contain research and analysis that draw on primary sources."

There is now no excuse to continue hiding those documents from the light of day. A decision to open the archives can be made only by a unanimous decision of the three nations which comprise the commission. Steinberg said that while the US and Britain support opening the archives, France is opposed.

But when the British government historian, briefing the media, supported "the fullest disclosure of documents" he was immediately prevented from expanding on the issue by the government spokesman.

The spokesman told the bewildered media that Britain, in fact, stood by France and also favored keeping the archives closed until the commission was disbanded. An unusual departure at yesterday's session was an appeal to compensate gypsy Holocaust survivors.

Romany Institute representative Donald Kenrite, who made the appeal, told *The Jerusalem Post* that at least 250,000 gypsies died in the Holocaust, but that figure might double after the archives of former communist states are examined.

The Hadassah College of Technology deeply mourns the passing of

MILTON W. ROTHBAUM

and extends sincerest condolences to its beloved past-chairperson and dear friend Bess G. Rothbaum and the entire family.

Dr. Yaacov Amidt, Director Faculty, Staff and Students at HCT

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The David Yellin Teachers College

The Board of Governors, Administration, Faculty and Staff deeply mourn the untimely passing of

RUTH BATKIN

a woman of exceptional vision and charm and a tireless supporter of the College.

The College, and all those who knew Ruth, mourn her sudden demise and feel deeply the pain of her absence.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to her husband Sanford, her daughter Helen and son-in-law Marc Younger, her grandson David and her sister Elaine Rosenberg.

May her memory be a blessing, as she was during her lifetime.

Netanyahu again warns Russia about supplying technology to Iran

by JAY BUSHINSKY

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possavlyuk was given a message yesterday from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to pass on to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, stating the seriousness with which Israel views his country's supply of missile technology to Iran.

Netanyahu linked his protest to the fact that diplomatic relations between Moscow and Jerusalem are good and that the respective governments are interested in developing them further.

But he stressed that the Iran's missile buildup is an existential issue for Israel, and ultimately will endanger other countries, including Russia itself.

The prime minister reviewed the current status of the Middle East peace process, a subject of particular interest to the deputy foreign minister, who is the Kremlin's new peace envoy to the region.

Possavlyuk next visits Syria, where he will presumably convey his impressions of Israeli policy to the Damascus regime. Before leaving here, he told Netanyahu that Russian Prime Minister

Viktor Chernomyrdin may visit next year.

LIAR.

A cynical history of American Jews
LOUIS BRANDIS SLEPT HERE... by DAVID GLITCHER is a tongue-in-cheek history of Jews in America.
"Professor Glitcher meets Jackie Mason in this easy reading American Jewish history with plenty of facts, insights, chuckles and shtetl."
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מכירת הספר

AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

The two versions are no coincidence. They reflect the two approaches prevalent in the administration. The first, supported by those around Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, reflects the American profile of Benjamin Netanyahu as someone whose policies are determined by the amount of pressure applied on him. The second approach, which characterizes the political echelon — particularly those around Vice President Al Gore, who plans to run for president in 2000 — is that the administration can pressure Netanyahu only as far as American Jews can take without protesting the humiliation of the Israeli leader.

The permanent arrangements

After the government decided in principle to implement a second further redeployment, Likud MK Ruvy Rivlin noted that any decision that on the one hand satisfies the dovish Foreign Minister David Levy of Geshet and, on the other, the hawkish Moshe Peled of Tsomet, is likely to blow up the coalition when the ministers must determine the depth of the pullback in the next two weeks.

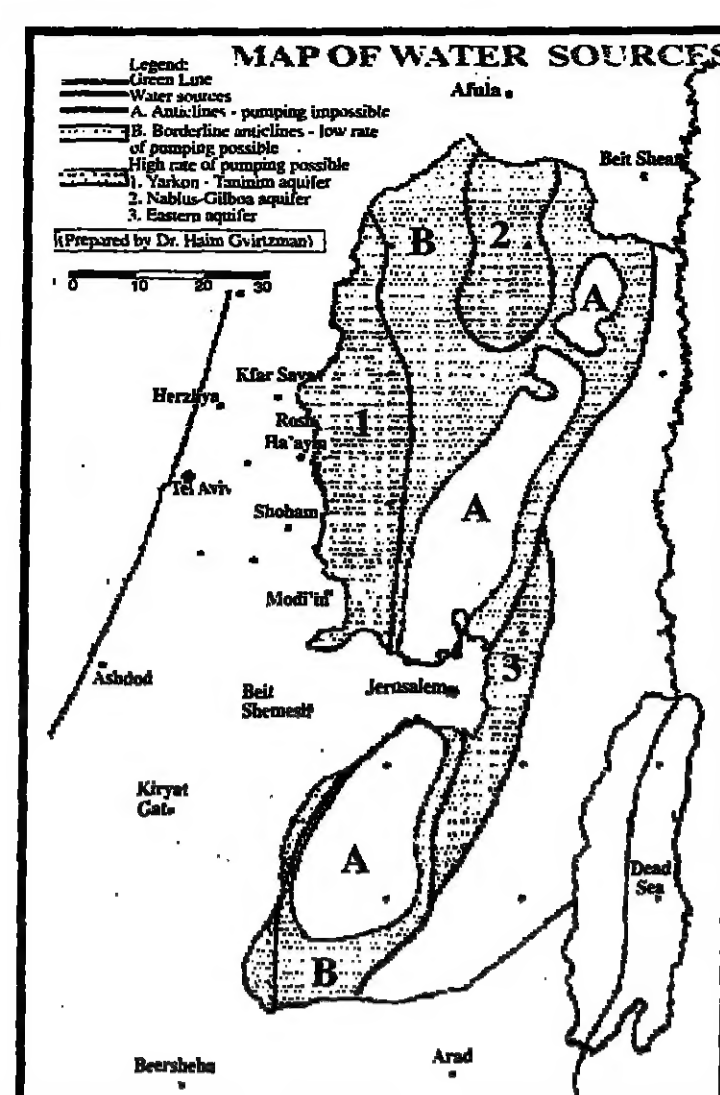
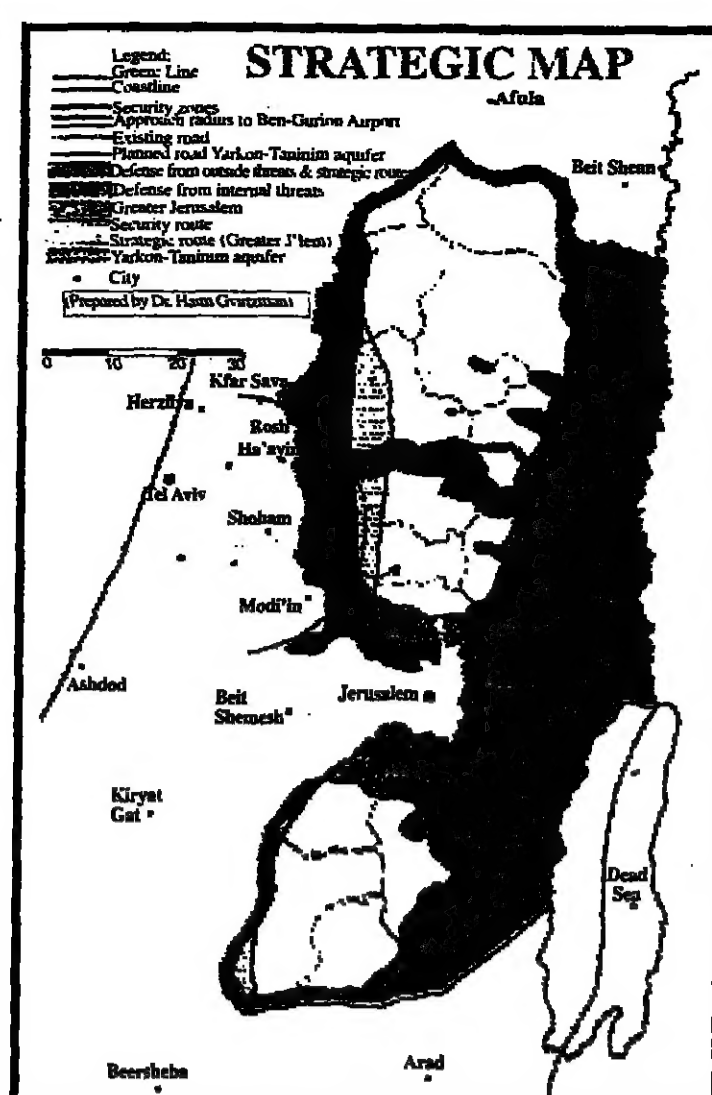
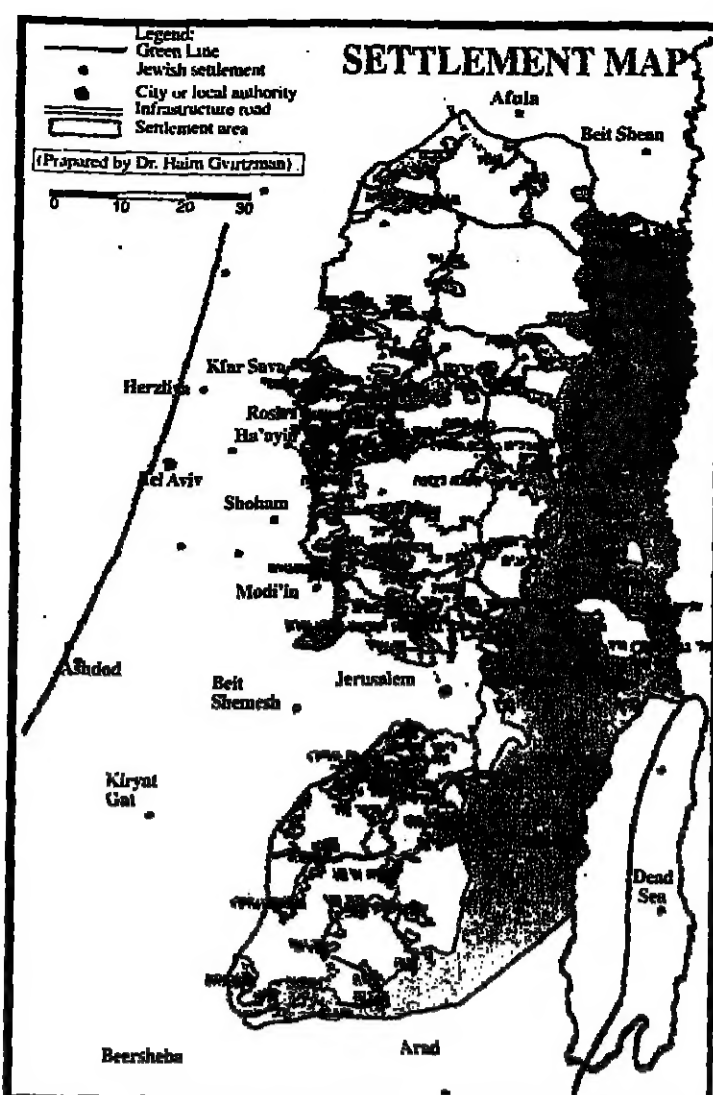
They understand this in Washington — and in Ramallah, too.

The decision by the US administration and by those around Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to give Netanyahu some breathing space is not only based on expectations for the next redeployment, but on the hope that this time, he will not be able to avoid stating his view on the nature of the permanent arrangements. He must do this, they know, not because of external pressure to do so, but because of the pressures of his own ministers, who want to know where Netanyahu is heading.

For more than a year, Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky has been demanding a debate on the permanent arrangements. The National Religious Party and the Third Way also believe that is the only way they can evaluate any further pullbacks. Thus, the percentages on the maps drawn up by the committee consisting of Netanyahu, Levy, Ariel Sharon, and Yitzhak Mordechai are really less important than the discussion of the full cabinet must have on which parts of the West Bank are negotiable.

When this discussion takes place next week, the ministers will be shown four transparencies of maps: one a "strategic" map, i.e., a map of the interests of the IDF; the second, a map showing the area's water sources; the third, a map of the settlements in the West Bank, and the fourth, the Oslo 2 map, which displays the prevailing division of the territory.

After each slide is shown and explained, and it is made clear which territory Israel must retain in the Jordan Valley and on the mountain ridge to defend itself from the east, and along the Green Line to prevent any possible linking of West Bank villages to Israeli Arab villages, the maps will



When the maps are placed on top of each other the resulting image will show what territory Israel can offer the Palestinians.

be placed one on top of the other. The remaining areas, except for those sections needed for east-west connecting roads, can in principle be offered to the Palestinians.

There will be no need to get upset about the modesty of the offer. For one thing, when the Palestinians respond, their counter-offer will be based on the 50-year-old partition plan and their "right of return." Secondly, the offer, however modest, will send an important message to Arafat, since for the first time the government is talking about a contiguous area and a willingness to consider a state under his control in the biblical Eretz Yisrael.

Sharon has already expressed this publicly, and most of the settlers have come to terms with it, even if they don't say so out loud.

What worries the US

This week I visited Nablus. Once, it was the center of Palestinian political activity. In the 1980s, when I covered the territories, I was there almost every day. From there, I understood where the Palestinians were heading.

Today, Nablus looks like a city of poor workers. You see this first of all in the souk prices. Tomatoes cost half what they do in eastern Jerusalem. Lamb can be had for less than NIS 20 a kilogram.

Only the huge pictures of Yasser Arafat remind one of the street activism. Today the street is interested in earning a living. Twenty percent of the residents are unemployed. Fifty percent can't find work in their fields, and must

make do with whatever small jobs they can pick up. The frustration is great.

This bothers the Americans no less than their inability to reconstruct their coalition against Saddam Hussein. They know that the accusations hurled by the Arab countries against Israel are weak excuses. But the suffering in the territories is real, and the complaints against Israel there are real. They are coming from the Palestinians' stomachs, and could explode the fundamentalist powder keg.

Then there is Arafat's health. Whether or not he has Parkinson's is not the issue; the issue is who will succeed him. The locals are already talking about a successor. A source who is deeply involved with the Palestinian leadership says that a committee has been established to "determine" the method by which Arafat's successor will be chosen.

The Americans fear that just the fact that this discussion is taking place, limits the time for the Oslo process to yield results. They fear that trust in Arafat will weaken, and that the elements that will most benefit from his weakened position will be those who oppose the process, like Hamas. The Americans prefer Arafat, with all his problems, to an unknown.

The Israeli political situation also worries them. They are following Netanyahu's ongoing domestic problems with great interest, and fear that new elections will further slow down the process, and may even result in the real hawks winning.

The Americans want a solution now. They prefer a weak Netanyahu, who is subject to US pressures, than a weak Ehud Barak, who will need the support of the Right just to remain in power.

Indyk's complaints

At the beginning of the week, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk called cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and asked him to get David

Bar-Ilan off his back, saying that the prime minister's communications director was inciting the American press against him.

It all started with Clinton's seeming inability to find a date to meet Netanyahu, which Jerusalem believes was Indyk's idea, suggested as a way to pressure Netanyahu.

The reports that Netanyahu had ordered the embassy in Washington to stop seeking a meeting boomeranged, not just with the administration, but also with American Jews who, it must be remembered, are Americans first. They don't like anyone being rude to their president, even the prime minister of Israel.

But the interview Netanyahu gave to CNN, in which he said he felt humiliated and as if the administration was comparing him to Saddam Hussein, made a difference. US Jews don't want to see the prime minister of Israel humiliated either, and certainly don't accept any comparison of him to the Iraqi dictator.

Bar-Ilan took advantage of this sympathy, and suddenly, American newspapers printed a series of columns critical of the administration, written by top columnists like Charles Krauthammer and Abe Rosenthal. As noted, administration officials know that they only have as much maneuvering room with Netanyahu as American Jews will give them. If they unequivocally back Netanyahu, it will be difficult to pressure him.

What is interesting, however, is that Bar-Ilan has never implicated Indyk publicly, though in a private conversation he may have slipped and mentioned his name. So what the Prime Minister's Office wants to know is, who is listening in on Bar-Ilan's phone when he is briefing American columnists.

Security advisers

On Monday evening, Bnot Pessia, the drag group, performed at a Mossad installation "somewhere in Israel." Mossad head Danny Yatom wasn't there. He's got more important things to

worry about than perhaps checking out men who dress as women for some mysterious assignment. He is fighting for his professional life. During the intermission, members of the audience talked about him. About possible successors. About how to climb out of the mess caused by the Mashal Affair.

The request by the Chief of Staff to delay the appointment of Mati Harari as Netanyahu's military secretary until the committee releases its report indicates that it is relating with all seriousness to the decision-making procedures in the Prime Minister's Office.

This week I spoke with Azriel Nevo, a military secretary to four prime ministers, who for some reason was never called to testify before the committee.

He spoke forcefully about the need for a national security council to advise the prime minister, a body which has never been estab-

lished, despite repeated recommendations that this be done, made by numerous committees of inquiry since the Yom Kippur War. Nevo believes this council should be led by someone with a security orientation who is respected by all the branches of the security services, and consist of a small number of senior — but not too senior — officers; colonels and their equivalents in the other services who would be "borrowed" for two years and then returned to active service.

"This would prevent suspicions and unhealthy competition [between the services] and would encourage sharing of information," he says.

This would not replace the military secretary, he says. That person would be a member of the team, and would be the liaison to the prime minister. The team would serve the entire cabinet by presenting alternatives before major decisions are made.

Worthy of note

On Tuesday, Foreign Ministry officials discussed the possible visit here of Louis Farrakhan.

It seems that they've forgotten that Farrakhan is one of the biggest Jew-haters of modern times. Among other things, he has publicly admired Hitler and said that the Nazis did not finish their work.

True, Farrakhan has influence on millions of American blacks. But as far as we're concerned, it's a destructive influence. Those who supported granting him permission to come here argued that Israel must find a way to open a dialogue with him.

They should ask Edgar Bronfman, the last Jew to try to engage him in a dialogue. He has come to the conclusion that there is nothing to talk about. He admitted his mistake.

The State of Israel shouldn't make the same mistake.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARON

Ticking bomb

Newspaper attention was riveted this week on the conflict between the Histadrut and the Treasury over Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's speech about "exploding bombs."

"The vulgar and insulting statement has damaged the justified economic claims that the Finance Ministry has raised against the local authorities," stated Yediot Aharonot's Sever Plotzker. He said that the attack added fuel to flames which could easily have been extinguished.

Moshe Perl in Ma'ariv asserts that the attack has done wonders to help Histadrut Secretary-General Amir Peretz shed a "bad guy" reputation. "Finally he is seen as a victim and not an aggressor, a man on the defense and not an attacker."

"In essence, Neeman is seeking a conflict," asserts Yediot's Gidon Eshet, who claims that Neeman's aim "is to break the Histadrut and not achieve a compromise."

He maintains that Neeman has developed a hatred for organized labor.

Mashaal conclusions

The Knesset committee investigating the Khaled Mashaal Affair which recommended avoiding action against those involved, "is another indicator of MKs' beliefs that it is permissible to err during an operative action and those involved should not be prosecuted," writes Ma'ariv's Ofer Shelah.

According to Yediot's Ron Ben-Yishai, the committee's decision is likely to influence the Ciechanover Commission. If the

latter is "lenient, [and calls] to refrain from judging the prime minister and the head of the Mossad — they have a legitimacy to do so."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid questions the conclusions of the subcommittee, and says they are "puzzling."

Endangered settlements

The newspapers pondered the future of West Bank settlements in light of the government's latest pullback proposals, and the differences between right and left-wing policies.

Ma'ariv's Hagai Segal claims that the Likud's final agreement map is almost identical to that of the Labor party. He adds that like Ehud Barak, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is prepared to abandon "the small settlements that stick in the throat of the holy final agreement."

He writes that "a year ago, [the settlers] brought him to power, mostly in the interest of preserving the settlements, but now [Netanyahu] is scheming to get along without them, courtesy of the safety net of the Left."

Meir Shiglit in Yediot holds that "Israel has no defense interests in Judea and Samaria; this is hard to swallow, but it's true." He adds that Infrastructure Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai "carry the defense interests [of this territory] in vain."

Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus refers to the Labor Party's covert cooperation with the Likud: "Whether because of innocence, noble-mindedness...or just plain stupidity, Labor has turned into Netanyahu's most credible support."

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Barak hints at dropping primaries

By SARAH HONG

Labor chairman Ehud Barak warned yesterday that if the elections are advanced, as he has repeatedly predicted, his party might not elect its Knesset candidates by primaries.

Barak himself predicted tedious proceedings at the party convention, which opens Sunday, because he will deliberately seek to steer away from controversies and will allow no votes or decisions on contentious issues.

The firecracker he exploded occurred almost by accident. At a press conference, Barak again predicted that elections will be held in 1998, and he announced once more that he is putting Labor on an election footing and initiating a fund-raising drive to foot the bills. He then went on to recite a long list of promises, which he said he will fulfill if elected.

Among them is to make sure that a hitherto unimplemented Labor decision to reserve 25 percent of the Knesset list for women will be adhered to next time around.

"But," Barak stressed, "this might be possible only if we go to the polls as scheduled in 2000. Early elections would mean gear-

ing up for a campaign quickly and this would make primaries impossible and also the addition of women candidates to the list."

Barak then went on to explain that the new election law "means going to the voters 60 days after the Knesset is disbanded. This leaves too little time to organize for primaries and it especially makes it impossible for new candidates, for young fresh faces, for unknowns to break in. Given this circumstance, it would be best that the largest party forum - the convention - elect the candidates."

Barak added that it would be up to the party institutions to decide on the matter.

But as soon as word of Barak's remarks got out, MK Rafi Elul began circulating a petition demanding that he "retract his statement in writing and promise that primaries be held no matter when elections are scheduled."

MK Uzi Baran rushed to confer with Barak and "explain to him things about the party rules of which he is unaware, because they were drafted before he entered politics. I told him that primaries are quite possible even in the event of early elections, and that though he may not know it, there is a provision in the party rules for

speedy primaries."

A similar message came from former secretary-general Nissim Zivli, who berated Barak for "not even bothering to look up the party rules. Early elections do not obviate primaries. Primaries can be conducted within ten days of new elections being scheduled."

MK Yossi Beilin, an ardent opponent of the direct elections system, nevertheless took Barak to task for "attempting to unilaterally change the rules of the game. We will not agree to any such changes and there will be no majority for them in the party. Barak can forget about it."

Barak told the press that among the subjects the convention will take up would be the opposition in the party to the direct election of the prime minister. But he made it clear that while a debate will be allowed, no voting will take place, since the issue is considered too explosive.

He called for a "three-month national time out, in which new elections will be called." He promised that if elected, he would form a national unity government. Among its members he mentioned most of the coalition parties in the Likud's present government, but he left out Meretz.



Dogs do their duty

Soldiers from the IDF's canine unit draw their pistols after one of their dogs captures a suspected 'terrorist' in an exercise earlier this week. The dogs are trained to search for terrorists and explosives.

(Reuters)

PM to Begin: I didn't come here to be insulted Likud Comptroller to probe convention

By LIAT COLLINS

At a Likud faction meeting yesterday marked by a heated exchange between MK Binyamin Ze'ev Begin and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister adopted the recommendation of Likud whip Meir Sheerit to appoint Likud Comptroller Mordechai Freedman to investigate the recent Likud convention.

Netanyahu said he thought there should also be a probe into who was trying to change the

party's leadership, and that perhaps there should also be an investigation into "the double game of those who are absent from important votes in the Knesset."

The initial investigating panel into the convention broke up at its first meeting.

Sheerit said the comptroller has the authority and access to information to make the investigation "quick and efficient."

In an argument that broke out between Netanyahu and Begin, the prime minister responded to a comment by Begin that the

party was being run by "corrupt clerks," by saying, "I didn't come here to be insulted by you. Enough of your slurs."

Begin countered that he had been referring to the party's director-general, Ramli Navon, who cut off Begin's microphone at a previous meeting.

According to an official who briefed on what went on at the meeting, MK Uzi Landau urged Likud members to observe a cease-fire in mutual attacks, and also urged them to throw their support behind Netanyahu.

Bills limiting yeshiva deferments fail

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

After a stormy debate, two bills proposing to restrict the number of yeshiva students deferred from military service failed preliminary reading yesterday. A bill by Ran Cohen (Meretz) failed 15 to 36 with one abstention. It suggested that only 250 yeshiva students be deferred, the number in the early days of the state.

A similar bill by Ophir Pines (Labor), which suggested a quota of 2,000, failed 19 to 38 with one abstention. Unlike Cohen's, this bill said the rest could either serve in the military or do civil national service.

Pines later demanded Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen hold an urgent meeting to discuss why Labor MKs were absent for the vote. Nine Labor MKs were in the building but failed to turn up for the vote.

The petition is the initiative of Yisrael Ba'aliya whip Roman Brodman and acts as a move to establish a caucus to counter the Land of Israel Front. Most of the signers are members of Yisrael Ba'aliya, the Third Way, Gesher, or the haredi parties. Coalition whip Meir Sheerit, Gideon Ezra, and Ze'ev Boim are the only Likud MKs who signed.

Mayors still can't be MKs

The bill by Pini Badash (Isomet), who is also mayor of Omer, which would rescind the ban on MKs holding outside positions failed preliminary reading by 11 to 41. Under the direct elections law, new MKs had to give up positions as local council heads when they assumed their Knesset posts, while the old-timers have to choose by the next municipal elections which job they wish to pursue.

Sex shops to be limited

A bill which passed preliminary reading would allow local authorities to restrict the places where sex shops can operate. The bill was proposed by National Religious Party whip Hanan Porat. It proposes that a local authority can decide where such shops can be located and the number of stores selling sexual paraphernalia. It was raised following the High Court decision that Rehovot cannot ban a store from selling sex aids, as it violates the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation.

MKs back peace

Twenty-one coalition MKs have signed a petition supporting the

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הכנסת אל הארץ

Poll: Half of Israeli Arabs oppose flying national flag over schools

By DAVID RUDGE

The Israeli-Arab community is divided over the issue of the national flag being flown over schools, according to the results of a recent nationwide survey of Arabs and Druse.

Those somewhat opposed constituted 25.4 percent and very opposed 23.8%. Over 42% of those polled said they were somewhat or strongly in favor of the

Israeli flag being flown over schools. All schools throughout the country are required by law to have the national flag over the buildings.

The poll, conducted on behalf of Tel Aviv University's Program on Arab Politics, also asked the 600 interviewees to relate to the question of compulsory army or national service.

Around 11% said they viewed the idea very favorably, while 12.6% were moder-

ately in favor - in return for full equality. Over 48%, however, were very opposed to compulsory service for Arabs and 22.5% were somewhat opposed.

The findings of the survey also revealed that a large percentage of Israeli Arabs and Druse believe that the signing of a comprehensive peace accord in the region would help them achieve greater equality.

Over 45% said they thought that the lot

of Israeli Arabs would improve, while 40% said their status would remain the same as today.

The survey, which had a 4% margin of error, also examined voting trends for the office of prime minister, views on the activities of Arab parties and movements, the status and popularity of the Islamic Movement and assessments of the government's policy towards the Arab sector.

Barak can't count on Arab vote

The half-million Israeli Arabs and Druse who are eligible to vote represent a considerable potential electoral force, particularly in direct elections for prime minister.

There was a 78 percent turnout by Arab voters in the 1996 elections - 9% higher than in the national ballot four years earlier. The Arab vote constituted over 11% of the overall number of qualified voters that were cast in 1996.

In the direct elections, 95% of Arabs voted for Labor's candidate Shimon Peres and just over 5% for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The results of the survey released yesterday by Tel Aviv University's Program on Arab Politics indicate that Labor chairman Ehud Barak would not fare as well as his predecessor. According to the poll, Barak would receive

just over half of the potential Arab vote in a direct run-off with Netanyahu, with more than 40% abstaining or casting blank ballots.

"The signal to Barak from these findings is that the Arab vote is not automatically in his pocket," said Dr. Elie Rekhess, director of the Arab politics program, which is cosponsored by the Adenauer Foundation.

"If an Arab candidate were to run as well it would probably lead to a second ballot, unless Netanyahu were to receive more than 50%, as required for a clear majority, in the first round," Rekhess added.

The prospect of Israeli-Arab parties agreeing on a candidate to field in the direct elections appears slight, given existing divisions, but

not impossible, according to Rekhess.

He said the results of the poll in response to other questions reflect the level of frustration of the Arab and Druse communities over socio-economic inequality

ANALYSIS

By DAVID RUDGE

and ineffectual efforts by existing parties to improve their lot.

"The relatively high popularity of the Islamic Movement and its stable position is due to the fact that it appears to be a genuine political force with a clear ideology, an effective 'modus operandi,' and is concerned (with being) better than other political parties," said Rekhess. "It also provides practical solutions to the daily needs of the Moslem population in the fields of Arab education,

especially for young children, as well as medical services, sports and recreation, culture and religion."

Nevertheless, the results of the survey appear to indicate a growing "Israelization" of the Arab and Druse communities and a desire to use their electoral potential in order to improve their status and standard of living.

"This can be seen in the wide support for political activity within existing democratic institutions of the State - mainly the Knesset - and the low support for illegal forms of protest."

"The clear option for Israelization, of which equality is the main pillar, does not mean, however, that the Palestinian consciousness of Israeli Arabs has been totally erased," Rekhess added.

Local scientists help discover deafness gene

By JUDY SIEGEL

A joint US-Israeli research team has identified a gene on the seventh chromosome that causes the most common type of congenital deafness. The discovery was reported in the latest issue of *Nature Genetics*.

The actual identification was carried out over 13 months by Dr. Eric Green and colleagues at the National Human Genome Research Institute at the US National Institutes of Health in Maryland, while two years ago, staff at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Karem identified the first family affected by the syndrome and conducted initial studies.

The Hadassah department of endocrinology and metabolism knows of 35 to 40 Israelis - all Moslem or Druse - who suffer from Pendred Syndrome, which causes deafness and thyroid problems. Although the syndrome can affect people from any ethnic group, it is more common among Arabs, where marriage among cousins frequently occurs. The fact that they have large clans simplifies genetic research.

One out of 1,000 babies is born with a hearing disorder, half due to genetic problems. Scientists believe there are hundreds of defective genes involved in various types of deafness, said Prof. Benjamin Glaser, a Hadassah endocrinologist who was part of the team. But this gene, called pendrin after the disease, causes defective transport of sulphate in the cells.

The findings "provide compelling evidence that defects in pendrin cause Pendred Syndrome, thereby launching a new era of investigation into thyroid physiology, the pathogenesis of congenital deafness, and the role of altered sulphate transport in human disease," the authors wrote.

Pendred Syndrome is believed to cause five percent to 10 percent of all congenital deafness. "It isn't clear how these mutations cause deafness," said Glaser, "but at least in some of the patients, the deafness appears in early childhood and not at birth. Thus, identifying the gene is clearly a breakthrough in the effort to prevent and treat deafness in these patients."

He added that with "gene therapy down the road, it could be possible to prevent the deafness from appearing, and even to take action in the fetus."

NEWS in brief

Kollek meets pope

Former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kolek met with Pope John Paul II yesterday, while on a visit to Rome to open a Jerusalem Foundation branch in Italy.

"It was a very nice, short visit," said Kolek. "He said: 'Welcome honored guest from the spiritual capital of the world.' I said, 'I thought Rome takes preference.' He said 'No, Jerusalem is first, Rome is only No. 2.' Kolek said the pope, whom he said has difficulty walking - "even more than I have" - expressed a strong interest in visiting Israel by 2000.

Elli Wohlgelemer

Secretary of Defense Cohen to visit Dec. 17

US Secretary of Defense William Cohen is to pay a two-day official visit here starting December 17 as part of his Middle East sweep, the Defense Ministry confirmed last night. It will be Cohen's first visit as secretary of defense. Cohen has hosted Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai twice in Washington. Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu said Cohen also will visit Egypt and Jordan during his tour.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Arab rights group protests medical conditions

Close to 50,000 Beduin living in unrecognized villages in the Negev suffer a lack of preventive medical services, including mother and child care clinics, according to a petition submitted yesterday to the High Court of Justice.

The petition presented by Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights and three other pro-Arab activist organizations, asks that the Health Ministry be ordered to provide these services.

Health surveys show that basic medical services are as far as a three-hour ride from these villages, and that these areas have the highest infant mortality rates in the country, the petition charged.

Batsheva Tsur

Navon receiving honorary doctorate

Israel's fifth president, Yitzhak Navon, will be awarded an honorary doctorate by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev today, along with Asher Ben-Natan, Shlomo Hillel, Zvi Tsur and Prof. Ora Kedem. Navon was also a close aide of David Ben-Gurion.

Hillel, world chairman of the Jewish National Fund, was a diplomat, MK and Knesset speaker. Ben-Natan, a former ambassador, was involved in bringing Holocaust survivors to Israel.

Tsur, a former IDF chief of staff was also a builder of chemical industries in the Negev. Kedem is a noted biochemist.



Yitzhak Navon (David Rubinger)

Judy Siegel

Yemenite bones to be examined here

Local molecular biologists and geneticists will examine the bones believed to belong to Yemenite immigrant children missing from the early years of the state, instead of sending samples to experts abroad, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza decided yesterday.

Matza made the decision on the basis of an opinion by Bruce Bodoli, of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, who is regarded as the world's leading expert in the field and who was invited here to examine Israeli skills in DNA testing of bones. He visited the Health Ministry's Institute of Forensic Medicine in Abu Kabir and met its staff. After his tour, Bodoli said Israel has all the information and tools to carry out the DNA tests here.

The Treasury has promised the Health Ministry a budget of NIS 400,000 to examine the bones.

Judy Siegel

Bar Association favors general amnesty

The Israel Bar Association came out in favor yesterday of a 50th anniversary amnesty but suggested that not all criminals be freed. It also suggested that inmates should have to apply for amnesty. Bar Association head Dror Hotev-Yishai, who is being investigated on charges of tax evasion, said he would exempt himself if an amnesty law was passed.

Batsheva Tsur

Police get pupils to talk

A new program being launched by the Education Ministry and the police has led to dozens of pupils confiding in police representatives about drugs and other personal problems.

Called "Window Onto the Police," the program has police officers visiting with pupils for confidential discussions with them about drugs, acts of violence including shakedowns of pupils, etc. According to an Education Ministry journal, a policewoman involved in the program said the pupils "spilled their guts and asked my advice about a number of things. I only intervened in matters when the pupils said it was okay."

Education Ministry officials said the program was launched because it was felt that too many pupils are afraid of the police. The program is designed to show pupils that the police provide important services to the community.

Aryeh Dean Cohen



Israeli Academy Award winners in the Knesset yesterday, where they had come to lend support to a bill that would guarantee funding for the film industry. Foreground: Julie Shles and Assaf Amir; back row: Dalia Shimko, Hannah Azulai-Hasfari, and Doron Zabari.

Cinema funding bill passes through preliminary screen test

By HELEN KAYE

The proposed cinema bill sailed through its preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday by a vote of 48 to 4, with supporters coming from both the coalition and opposition.

The government had originally opposed the bill, but reversed itself following a dramatic morning of lobbying by Yisrael Ba'aliya and a busload of determined local film notables, including Academy Award winners Moshe Ivgy, *Afula Express* director Julie Shles, producer Marek Rosenbaum and Israel Film Academy president Israel Ringel who said "passage of this bill is a matter of life and death for the Israeli film industry."

The bill, submitted by Labor MK Yona Yahav, would anchor the source and scope of funding for the Israeli film industry into law.

Its main clauses are the establishment of an apolitical 11-15 member national film council, which would apportion revenues from other media sources to various film funds and cinema-related institutions.

Under the proposal, the industry would get 2.5% of TV license revenues and 5% each from the gross income of every private broadcaster on Israeli TV and from the sales tax on videotapes, audiotapes, laser discs and so forth.

Addressing the plenum, Yahav called the industry "Israel's window to the world, which over the last 50 years has presented all aspects of our life, its joys and its sorrows." He added that films could be a lucrative source of state income, saying that it had earned some \$20 million this year alone.

He also expressed regret on behalf of the industry for what were termed unfortunate

remarks against the prime minister and Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky at the Academy Award ceremonies two weeks ago.

Among those voting for the bill were Likud MK Gideon Ezra, who had demanded an apology as the price for his vote, NRP MK Avner Shaki as well as Sharansky, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, and Deputy Education Minister Moshe. The votes against the bill came from Shas.

The measure will now go to the Knesset Education Committee where "the hard work will start," said Ringel. "We hope that the eventual council will deal with cinema, not politics, and that the next Academy Awards (ceremony) will be free of those expressions we have had cause to regret this year."

Speaking with industry representatives following the vote, Sharansky promised to try to push the bill through committee.

Controversial dentist suspended for a year

By JUDY SIEGEL

The license to practice dentistry of Dr. Amos Buchnik, the Bnei Brak man who claimed he has hidden for over a decade the identity of a soldier's rapist, has been suspended for a year due to his illegal advertising. It was the most serious punishment the Health Ministry ever meted out against a dentist breaking rules prohibiting him from advertising.

The ministry committee that investigated the case actually recommended a five-year suspension, but Health Minister Yehoshua Matza decided on one year.

According to the ministry, he made a deal with his brother - the owner of an insurance company - to refer patients to his dental practice, which is illegal. He also advertised his clinics in the media. Buchnik did not cooperate with the disciplinary committee that investigated the case. Until now, a

year's suspension has been rarely handed down and only to negligent dentists involved in the death of a patient.

Buchnik made headlines in October when he claimed to know who had raped a soldier in the South in August 1985. The soldier hitched a lift with a man near Ramat Hovav; the driver tore off her clothes, attacked and raped her, shooting her in the head and leaving her for dead.

But she managed to crawl for nearly 20 hours in the desert until she was found by Beduin youths, who called for help.

The "rapist from the South" was never found. Buchnik, a follower of Beersheba "miracle worker" Rabbi Eliezer Abuhatzra, said he would disclose the rapist's identity if charges of alleged tax evasions against the rabbi were dropped. Police who investigated Buchnik concluded he knew nothing about the rape case.

Top Turkish officers to visit Egypt, Israel

By METEHAN DEMIR

ANKARA - Turkey's top commanders are following a policy of balance between Israel and Egypt. Chief of General Staff Gen. I. Hakkı Karadayi is to visit Cairo in mid-December, while OC Land Forces Gen. Huseyin Kivrikoglu is to visit Israel at the beginning of January.

Kivrikoglu is expected to visit military facilities, including a factory where the Merkava I and II tanks are manufactured.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to visit Turkey from Monday to Wednesday. He is expected to discuss various defense issues and joint projects and reciprocal visits. The details and exact date of the controversial joint Turkish-Israeli-US naval maneuver, planned for next month, will be among the issues to be discussed.

Mordechai will be the second high-level defense official to visit Turkey in the last two months. Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak visited in mid-October.

Turkey's top commanders, including Karadayi, Deputy Chief of General Staff Gen. Cevik Bir, and former defense minister Turgut Tayan, visited Israel early this year. In addition, President Suleiman Demirel recently visited at the beginning of this year.

Defense links between Turkey and Israel were launched with a military training cooperation agreement in 1995. The second agreement came in August 1996, with a defense industry cooperation deal.

The growing ties between the two countries have been drawing strong objections from Arab countries.

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Czech it out

Post-communist Europe's most stable country braces for a period of uncertainty following the PM's resignation

By JAN LOPATKA

PRAGUE — The Czech republic could face weeks of deep political crisis following Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus's resignation over the weekend, and analysts believe early elections may be needed to break the deadlock.

Klaus and his cabinet resigned after the government crumbled over a party funding scandal but will stay on until a new one is named.

However, analysts said no clear replacement for post-Communist Europe's longest-serving premier was in view and, with deep splits among and within coalition parties, fresh polls may be needed to build a stable new administration.

"It won't be easy to form a new government without early elections," said Jiri Pehe, political analyst and director of President Vaclav Havel's political department.

Czech markets were hit hard on Monday, prompting the central bank to defend the crown, and stock prices plummeted record lows on fears of prolonged political uncertainty.

Havel has asked the current three-party coalition to try to form a new government, but after meeting party leaders on Sunday, said talks on forming a new administration would have to wait until after a December 13 congress of Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (ODS).

The coalition, dominated by ODS and under strain over its handling of serious economic problems this year, controls just 100 seats in the 200 seat parliament.

The next elections are scheduled for 2000 but the deep rifts in ODS, after the acrimonious ousting of Klaus, could bring down any new

government based on this coalition.

"We strongly believe that there will be fresh elections in the Czech Republic," David Simmonds, head of East European research at Citibank said, adding they could probably not be held before spring.

Klaus, who remains popular in the regions, met ODS members of parliament (MPs) on Monday to debate whether to run again for party chairman, the key role in talks on forming a cabinet.

ODS member and former interior minister Jan Ruml, who joined Finance Minister Ivan Filip last Friday in calling on Klaus to resign, told reporters the parliamentary party was split into pro- and anti-Klaus camps.

"The ODS should at least try to form a government with a new chairman and the coalition parties," he said.

ODS regional official Robert Kolar said a clear majority of MPs did not want Klaus to stand for party chairman again.

"It is clear as day that if Klaus wins, the government will not be formed and there will be early elections," he said.

Milos Zeman, head of the opposition Social Democrats, who lead the ODS in opinion polls, is pressing for early elections.

Several analysts have suggested the outcome of an election could be a government of the Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats, junior partners in the current coalition.

Christian Democrat leader and deputy prime minister Josef Lux has balked at such a coalition but has also said no one from the current government should lead the new one.

Havel indicated he would prefer to see a premier without party



Outgoing Czech premier Vaclav Klaus remains popular despite the party-funding scandal which led to his resignation this week.

affiliations. Central Bank governor Josef Tosovsky's name has been frequently mentioned. However, Pehe said the president's talks on Sunday made this

look unlikely. Klaus was long seen as the champion of economic reform which made the Czech Republic one of Eastern Europe's success

stories in the early part of the decade.

Despite the initial negative reaction on the markets, US credit rating agency Standard & Poor's said

on Monday the political shakeup should be viewed as positive for investors.

"What is going on is very positive," said Helena Hessel, director

of sovereign ratings at S&P. "It is pretty healthy to have some changes in terms of the political scene."

(Reuters)

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مكتبة القدس

India braces for early elections

By HEMA SHUKLA

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — India's caretaker cabinet yesterday recommended that the president dissolve parliament in preparation for new elections to replace the government that fell last week.

This came after a right-wing party that had demanded it be allowed to form a new government as an alternative to early elections admitted it had been unable to muster support.

Bharatiya Janata leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee told reporters he had advised the president that "it appears that no one is in a position to form the government, so the best way out is to go the people for their verdict."

Vajpayee said President K.R. Narayanan agreed that it appeared no party or group is able to lead a government.

As the constitutional head of state, it is up to Narayanan to either ask a party or coalition to take over the government, or call new elections. Narayanan met with caretaker Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral yesterday evening, and his decision is expected soon.

The recommendation from the cabinet cleared any technical barriers to holding elections three years

ahead of schedule.

Gujral had made no recommendation when he resigned last Friday, wanting to leave Narayanan's options open. Some constitutional experts had questioned whether the president could call elections without the formal advice of the government.

Agriculture Minister Chaturaman Mishra announced the unanimous decision that parliament should be dissolved as he left a cabinet meeting. The decision followed calls from his ousted United Front government for new elections.

Election officials say it would take at least two months to organize balloting in the world's most populous democracy, with 600 million voters.

Narayanan has been weighing his choices since the 14-party United Front government resigned Friday. The United Front has served as caretaker government since then.

The United Front says elections are the only solution to the political impasse.

The Congress and Bharatiya Janata parties both wanted a chance to form a new government. But neither has a majority in the 545-member house, so would need partners to rule.

Berlusconi sentenced to 16 months

MILAN (Reuters) — An Italian court yesterday sentenced, former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi to 16 months in jail for false accounting.

A judge said Berlusconi, who had previously paid 17 billion lire (\$9.8 million) in damages in the case, would not go to jail.

Berlusconi, prime minister for seven months in 1994, heads media, retail and insurance holding Fininvest and leads the opposition center-right Freedom Alliance. He will not have to serve his sentence because under Italian law sentences of under two years are rarely served.

It was the first time a conviction had been imposed on Berlusconi, who is currently facing three other separate trials on charges of establishing illegal slush funds, bribing tax inspectors and illegally channelling funds to politicians.

The false accounting charges were made in the so-called Medusa trial, in which Berlusconi and four associates were charged with falsifying accounts and embezzling funds when Fininvest bought the Medusa film business in 1988. Fininvest had denied the charges.

Fininvest executive Carlo Bernasconi was sentenced to 16 months in jail, but his sentence was suspended.



Silvio Berlusconi, who was sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment yesterday, speaks at a recent Freedom Alliance rally. (AP)

Three other Fininvest managers were found not guilty of false accounting. Berlusconi also was fined 60m.

lire (\$35,000), but this was later reduced to 10m. lire. The prosecution had asked for Berlusconi to serve 20 months in

jail, while his lawyer had sought an acquittal. There was no immediate response from Berlusconi, who

was in a meeting at his Arcore residence near Milan, a spokeswoman said. Berlusconi has denied the charges.

Earl Spencer gets divorce, ex-wife gets \$3m.



Earl Spencer leaves the Supreme Court in Cape Town, yesterday, on the third day of his divorce case. (AP)

CAPE TOWN (AP) — A judge granted Earl Spencer a divorce yesterday, ending his tumultuous eight-year marriage with a settlement worth more than \$1.8 million (\$3m.).

The divorce of the late Princess Diana's brother and former model Victoria Lockwood capped a series of embarrassing courtroom revelations.

Lawyers for the 32-year-old Lady Spencer alleged he was an adulterer who had 12 mistresses, starting soon after their marriage.

He maintained she is mentally unstable, unable to handle a large sum of money and would return to the alcohol abuse and eating disorders that have plagued her in the past.

The settlement, finalized yesterday, was reached Tuesday just before Lady Spencer, her father John, and the earl's former mistress Chantal Colpo were due to testify against him.

In Cape Town High Court, Judge Ian Farlam asked Spencer if his marriage had broken down. "It is so broken down, my Lord," a solemn-faced Spencer, 33, replied.

Farlam then confirmed that provision had been made for the couple's four children and granted the divorce. Spencer smiled broadly and shook hands with his lawyers.

Lady Spencer was not present, but her lawyer Jeremy Gauntlett offered no objections to the divorce. She had been seeking \$3.75m.

The couple, already estranged, moved to Cape Town in 1995 and set up separate homes within a few streets of each other. Spencer said he left England to escape press intrusions.

After Diana died August 31 in a Paris car crash while fleeing photographers, Spencer accused the media of hounding her to death.

ARABS

Continued from Page 1

Those polled were asked who they thought would best promote the peace process — Barak or Netanyahu, neither, or both to the same extent? Over 52% said Barak and only 3% said Netanyahu, with most of the rest undecided.

On a question regarding the state of the Arab parties, more than 82% said they would prefer a united Arab list to separate parties.

Only 2.5%, however, thought there is a very good chance of this happening, with 40% rating the prospects as moderate to fairly

good. Over 53% said they thought the chances of the parties agreeing to forging a single Arab list are poor to non-existent.

The findings showed interviewees equally divided over the question of which parties contributed most to realizing the aspirations of Israeli Arabs and Druze. Hadash received 20%, the Arab Democratic Party 17%, Labor 16%, and Meretz 15%.

The survey revealed growing support for both the pragmatic and the more radical factions of the fundamentalist Islamic Movement. Around 12% said they supported the more moderate stream led by Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darweesh, and 20% supported the one headed

by Umm el-Fahm Mayor Sheikh Raed Salah, while 16% backed both. A majority of 52%, however, said they supported neither.

The increased support for Islamic movements in general was reflected in the response to a question about observance of religious commandments. Over 37% said they observe to a large extent, compared to 35% in 1995, while 27% replied that to a moderate extent, compared to nearly 17% two years ago, and 26% said they observe to a small extent, compared to 20% in 1995.

Just under 10% said they did not observe religious commandments at all — compared to 28% in 1995.

Egyptian militants: Luxor attackers acted alone

By RASSEM MROUE

HAEKSTEP, Egypt (AP) — Imprisoned leaders of the dominant Muslim extremist group in Egypt said yesterday that the militants who killed 58 tourists in Luxor last month acted independently.

Mustapha Sayed, a lawyer standing trial with 64 other suspected militants, told reporters here that "the group came from the mountains, and their contacts with the leadership had been cut off." The attack, which also took the lives of four Egyptians, was claimed by al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, or the Islamic Group.

The group has been blamed for much of the violence in a five-year campaign by Muslim extremists to replace Egypt's secular government with a strict Islamic regime.

The November 17 attack at the Temple of Hatshepsut outside

Luxor has brought Egypt's tourism industry to a halt. Tourism is one of the country's biggest foreign currency earners, bringing in some \$3 billion a year. The six gunmen were killed after the attack.

Sayed and the others are being tried in military court on charges of belonging to the outlawed Islamic Group, and conspiring to commit murder.

The trial continues today at Haekstep, a military base 25 kilometers north of Cairo.

Sayed spoke to reporters during a break in the trial from the iron cage that holds the defendants.

Asked if he condemned the attack in Luxor, Sayed said only that "Al-Gamaa rejects the killing of tourists," but that the group's goal was "to strike at the tourism industry."

He contended that although the Islamic Group claimed the attack in a fax to a Western news agency

in Cairo, the leadership did not give its approval.

The group's *Al-Murabitoun Bulletin* last week said "There is no excuse that calls for this random murder." The statement, though unsigned, has been attributed to Osama Rushdy, a group leader who lives abroad.

The statement also expressed "deep regret and sorrow over ... the slaying of this great number of innocent victims who have no (part) in the conflict between the Egyptian government and the Islamists."

Sayed said that "al-Gamaa was trying as much as possible" to contact members in hiding in the mountains in southern Egypt about the cease-fire call.

Sayed said he was speaking on behalf of six Islamic Group leaders jailed for anti-government activities.

In July, another defendant, Mohammed Amin Abdel-Halim,

read out a statement that called for a cease-fire in the group's fight against the government.

A similar call from the Islamic Group was issued just days after the Luxor attack.

The cease-fire calls have urged Muslim militants to end their attacks on police and government officials.

In exchange, the militants have called on Egypt to release detainees, break ties with Israel and allow the country to be governed by Islamic Sharia law.

They also want freedom for the Islamic Group's spiritual leader, Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, who is imprisoned in the United States for conspiracy to blow up New York monuments.

More than 1,200 people have died in attacks by the militants staged since 1992. Most victims have been police or extremists, but foreigners and Coptic Christians also have been killed.

BBC adjusts to age of competition

By JEFF DAESCHNER

LONDON (Reuters) — The British Broadcasting Corporation yesterday vowed to make itself more accountable to audiences as it strives to compete with commercial TV and radio broadcasters.

The BBC launched a new guide to its system of governance for viewers and listeners, aiming to dispel any lingering perceptions of it as a lofty public service broadcaster with little regard for popular feedback.

"It's a different and, I hope, increasingly strong and better relationship with its audience, which isn't simply measured by making the programs you like for your peers and knowing that people willy-nilly will watch and listen to them," BBC chairman Sir Christopher Bland told reporters.

The BBC, which is funded by a £91.50 TV license fee levied on British households, faces stiffer competition as digital TV services are

launched next year, multiplying the number of channels available to viewers.

The new guide, called "Governing Today's BBC — Broadcasting, the Public Interest, and Accountability" came after the government challenged the BBC to do more to show how its set-up protects the public interest.

As part of its new strategy, the BBC said it is considering holding formalized "stock-taking" meetings with Culture Secretary Chris Smith once a year.

It also said it is beefing up its audience feedback shows by introducing *The BBC Listens*, which will combine audience research and advice from critics.

"I think it's increasingly, in the competitive age, necessary for the BBC to justify itself as providing a service to viewers and listeners as part of the license fee compact," Bland said.

"We have to review how well we're serving those audiences. Not just in dull competitive terms, which can be done by measuring the

numbers, but by looking at under-served portions of our audience — ethnic minorities and different parts of the United Kingdom."

Bland admitted that the BBC had been late in entering the round-the-clock TV news market, having only launched its BBC News 24 service in Britain last month.

"The BBC was late in the market for 24-hour news... I wish we'd done it 15 years earlier," he said, adding however that the BBC could offer news coverage that was distinctive from Sky News and CNN.

But he said the BBC would make sure that commercial pressures did not override its public service role.

"We can hopefully eliminate the danger of the commercial tail wagging the public service body of the dog," he said.

The new guide, the successor to "An Accountable BBC" published four years ago, is available by request and on the BBC website — www.bbc.co.uk/info/govbbc.

SYRIA

Continued from Page 1

The report said that the information could have influenced the incumbent government, as well as its immediate predecessors, in their respective assessments of Syria's diplomatic and military intentions.

However, Levy minimized its impact, stating that the concern evoked last August by Syria's troop movements in Lebanon "caused tension" but was far from being a "crisis," recalling that suggestions that IDF reservists should be mobilized at the time were rejected from the outset.

In a follow-up report, Channel 1 political correspondent Dan Semama speculated that there may be "a negative hero" in this affair, but did not elaborate.

On the other hand, he contended that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is "the positive hero" because he kept the military situation under control by relaying Israel's assurances to Syria, through then-US ambassador Martin Indyk and US peace envoy Dennis Ross, that his trip to the Mt. Hermon surveillance post was not a prelude to a military operation.

Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that evaluations haven't changed following the disclosure.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said

that damage has been done to the country, but that it is too early to tell how much.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said that there's no danger as a result of the mishap. "As a someone who has read reports from this source, [reports] that give information about chances of peace or war are never based on one source," he said.

Meanwhile, the Mossad is now fully operational in London after a 10-year break, according to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*.

The most important branch of the Mossad operates in Britain under the code name "Tevet," and is assigned to cooperate with foreign intelligence services, it said. Other Mossad divisions active in Britain are named as "Tzomet," in charge of recruiting agents, and "Caesarea," the main operations branch.

The Mossad's principal function in Britain, according to the newsletter, is to recruit Arab agents. Britain, favored by many Arabs for army and university training, has one of the largest Arab communities outside the Arab world. There are, it notes, more Arabs in Britain than in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel combined.

The Mossad was expelled by former prime minister Margaret Thatcher almost 10 years ago, after three cases in which it allegedly broke its agreement with the British government.

The first involved the kidnapping of former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu; the second the alleged use of a forged British passport; and the third, described as "the most embarrassing," involved an agent who infiltrated a Palestinian organization and discovered that his fellow members were about to kill an Arab journalist. The agent immediately told his controller, but the information was not passed on to Britain's M15 security service and the journalist was shot a few days later.

Only then did the Mossad tell M15 of a warehouse where the murder weapon could be found. Using this information, police found the weapon and arrested some Palestinians, including the Mossad agent, who told M15 he had warned his controller of what was about to happen.

Thatcher ordered the immediate closure of the Mossad station in London and several Israeli "diplomats" were expelled the next day. Since then, the newsletter quotes Israeli sources as saying that M15 and the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) have argued in favor of letting the Mossad return, as "the British and Israeli agencies are said to hold each other in high regard... Israeli sources say the Mossad admires British spies, the SIS's research department, and its coverage of the Arab world, as well as its skill in recruiting."

Foreign Report quotes Israeli sources as saying the main targets for the Mossad in Britain are foreign students and army officers attending courses. Mossad agents identify possible targets and launch a sophisticated recruitment operation: "Some fail. But others produce informers who feed their controllers with valuable military secrets."

According to the newsletter, the SIS cooperates with the Mossad because it retains a strong interest in Russia and its nuclear arsenal, the proliferation of Russian nuclear technology, and its latest weapons.

The Mossad, with its contacts with Russian Jews, can help, says the newsletter. "Russian Jewish immigrants, many of them eminent scientists who had been working in high-technology defense industries, have shared their knowledge with Israeli experts."

The Mossad, notes the newsletter, "the Mossad station in London had at least 10 agents operating from the embassy and others working undercover. It is not clear if the station is operating on a similar scale today."



Global warming message

Japanese university student Naganori Mimachi, a member of the Japan Acid Rain Monitoring Network, dressed as an imaginary river imp called 'Kappa,' checks raindrops to measure air pollution in front of the international conference center in Kyoto yesterday. More than 1,500 delegates from 150 countries are gathered for a 10-day conference on global warming, where the US and other industrial powers are engaged in disputes with developing countries over how to distribute the burden of reducing global energy consumption. (AP)

Coping with E-trade

Faced with an increasingly bustling info-highway, governments are uncomfortable with the Net's potential to bypass tax and content laws

By RICHARD MELVILLE

NEW YORK — It already delivers more mail than the US Post Office, can deliver news to more homes than any daily paper and is emerging as the shopping center of the next century, but those accomplishments are dwarfed by what many see as the Internet's role in the future global economy. Like automobiles, broadcast, telephony and other globe-shrinking leaps that preceded it, the Internet is expected to launch an economic quantum shift.

World Wide Web-based commerce is expected to explode to \$220 billion by 2001, almost one percent of the global economy, according to research firm International Data Corp. (IDC). That would be more than 20 times the \$10.6 billion forecast for this year and approach 100 times 1996 levels.

By then, electronic wallets will be common and the switch from paper to digital cash well underway. Companies will open access to sensitive internal data over secure networks to partners, making possible constant, real-time exchange with suppliers and distributors.

Web phones and faxes will bypass more costly telecommunications.

Of course, all the basic technologies involved are already available, which is why analysts say the age of Internet pioneers is over and late adopting companies — and countries — are now at risk of being left far behind.

"We are at the beginning of a high-stakes game of 'Internet leapfrog' in which regions that have a high percentage of aggressive Internet users will be positioned to leap ahead of others in production and profitability growth," IDC predicted.

Initially, the Web served as little more than a digital shopping mall, hosting hundreds if not thousands of makeshift digital storefronts.

Lately, that model has given way to a new reality — the Web as a borderless economy that threatens to undermine governments' ability to supervise, regulate or tax commerce.

In the new global order of consumerism, "brand loyalty" has given way to "mind share," the critical edge of being first name to mind in a medium where advertising and marketing are in their infancy.

As the Web changes commerce, commerce in the form of big business is also bringing fundamental change to the Web. This year, corporate dollar spent in Web commerce will exceed those spent by the online shopper for the first time.

"We see business-to-business as the dominant force going forward," said John Gantz, senior vice president at IDC. "You're already seeing cases like US West, which is trading dialtone with resellers over the Web."

Commercial adoption of the Web by big business is at the heart of the raging browser war between Netscape Communications Corp. and Microsoft Corp.

The thought is, control of the desktop browser market will act as a foothold for lucrative sales of software to companies looking to open their purchasing and sales teams, databases and other areas to the Web.

There are still major obstacles. Many governments are extremely uncomfortable with the Internet's potential to bypass laws on content, let alone encryption and taxation.

Also, personal computer use and telephone liberalization need to broaden in Europe for the Net to flourish, although some expect the gap to close rapidly, driven by the temptation of lower prices for consumer goods in a heavily taxed part of the world, and the chance for business to cut costs.

"There are a lot of things that are very expensive here in Europe that can be bought on the Net for dramatically less, even after shipping costs," Andersen Consulting's "E-commerce expert" Glover Ferguson said.

Many robberies, whether in Brazil or elsewhere, are not reported because the cost of keeping a ship docked long enough for investigations would cost a fortune in harbor fees. "Often ship commanders don't report assaults," Federal Police spokesman Aroldo Mendonca said in Rio. "They're not going to park their ships in port and lose a lot of time and money."

"Why do the robbers go to such

lengths and plan their crime with such sophistication if often only to steal radios, televisions or typewriters?" asked Milton Tito, director of the Rio de Janeiro Sindicato de Shipping Agencies (Sindisrio). "It's quite possible that drugs and arms are involved."

Federal Police are investigating such links but to date no such connection could be firmly established. BIMCO and the IMB say there is no evidence to support a drugs and arms link, but the targeting of specific cargo and often specific containers is still of concern.

"Somewhere along the line the pirates are getting inside information," Timken said. "Our main concerns are ship crews and the negative effect this will have on trade."

Security is still a main issue both at the corporate and inter-governmental level and standards have yet to be broadly implemented. In this area and others, financial companies have taken an important lead.

Within the US, banks have lent an important image of stability to the Web, delivering feature-rich (albeit cash poor) automatic teller machines right into people's homes.

A booming stock market has also propelled brokerages to the Web, where the high-speed, high-tech image plays well with the demographics of an investment-obsessed yuppie class.

Now, top-tier firms like Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette are fighting for e-market share with Web powerhouses like Charles Schwab Corp.

Add to the mix deep-discount outfits like E*Trade Group Inc., which relies almost entirely on the Web for business, and even deeper-discount newcomers and the result is a full-fledged price war emblematic of a mature market.

For sheer numbers, high-tech companies still dominate.

Dell Computer Corp.'s Web

sales are running at a \$1 billion per year clip and a large slice of the remaining trade revolves around technology.

"If you add what Dell and Cisco (Systems Inc.) claim to be doing over the Web, which in Cisco's case is probably all business to business, it's about \$2.5-\$3 billion themselves," IDC's Gantz said.

For the model to reach critical mass, many more companies will have to embrace it. When that occurs, experts say, opportunities will abound to link corporate data on inventory and production outlooks to suppliers' and resellers' systems, for example, allowing far more efficient trade than is possible today.

On the consumer side, the Internet's corner store feel is giving way as well-known names gentrify the neighborhood.

Book sales are one of the Web's natural fit products, because they take advantage of an Internet strength: the ability to let customers sift through vast information with little effort and quickly place orders based on the results.

That feature is part of a shift in other likely "killer categories" like music and travel services onto the Web.

Amazon.com Inc.'s early use of that advantage has already pushed the giants in book retailing into the arena for defensive purposes, even though Amazon's \$81.7 million in sales through nine months amounts to two weeks of work at Barnes & Noble Inc.

Those are examples of contemporary retailing taken online.

The future, of course, will mean a change in practice, and possibly the rise of the highly specialized retail outlet.

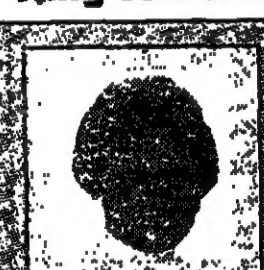
"The Internet is ideal for micro-categories, what we call 'gnat-economy' killers," Goldman Sachs analyst David Bolotsky argued in a report on Internet retailing. "In other words, the Internet will enable retailers to target market much narrower customer and product segments."

(Reuters)

Pirates plunder at will in Brazil

book department

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RIO DE JANEIRO — Sabre-rattling pirates flying the skull and crossbones as they plunder their way across the seven seas may be a thing of the past but the act of piracy has far from died out in the coastal waters of Brazil.

Only last month, a gang of modern-day pirates seized control of a ferry off the coast of Sao Paulo state, shot their way into an armored car and escaped in a speedboat with more than \$450,000. But usually they operate less dramatically, arriving in the dead of night on launches equipped with scuba gear and submachine guns to raid cargo ships anchored in port.

Among international shipping

and maritime organizations, Brazil has already been branded as a pirates' den, with the ports of Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Salvador suffering the largest number of pirate attacks.

"There is a high frequency of attacks in comparison with other countries," said consultant Thomas Timken with the Baltic International Maritime Council (BIMCO) in Denmark, the world's leading private association of shipowners and shipping firms.

"In terms of attacks within port areas, Brazil has the worst record in the world." Although Southeast Asia has the highest incidence of piracy in the world, it has fewer cases of assaults in port areas and

more attacks on the high seas than Brazil. Statistics compiled by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) show Brazil ranks third in incidents of piracy around the world with 11 assaults on cargo vessels between January and September of this year.

There were 34 attacks in Indonesia and 13 in the Philippines over the same period, the IMB said.

The statistics are unreliable, however, as Brazilian police have already registered more attacks against ships than those reported to the IMB. There have been nine

LATIN AMERICA

by SIMONE DE LACOSTE

attacks in the port of Santos and eight in the port of Rio de Janeiro alone over that period, according to Federal Police statistics.

Many robberies, whether in Brazil or elsewhere, are not reported because the cost of keeping a ship docked long enough for investigations would cost a fortune in harbor fees. "Often ship commanders don't report assaults," Federal Police spokesman Aroldo Mendonca said in Rio. "They're not going to park their ships in port and lose a lot of time and money."

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"Somewhere along the line the pirates are getting inside information," Timken said. "Our main concerns are ship crews and the negative effect this will have on trade."

said Luciano Oliveira da Silva, general manager of shipping firm Expresso Mercantil in Rio.

BIMCO has appealed to the Brazilian government several times over the last few years to increase port security but it says it has not seen any tangible improvements so far, while the degree of violence during pirate attacks is escalating.

"What is lacking in Brazil is a proper coast guard. There is no policing whatsoever in Brazil's ports. The federal police and the port authorities have no staff, no boats, no equipment and no training to ensure security," da Silva said.

(Reuters)

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סכנה מן האוכל

Jewish justice in the Promised Land

JUDGMENT IN JERUSALEM: Chief Justice Simon Agranat and the Zionist Century by Pinna Lahav, Berkeley, University of California Press. 331 pp. Price not stated.

By Allan E. Shapiro

This first biography of a chief justice of the Supreme Court of Israel is a breath of fresh air in the cloistered confines of most academic jurisprudential literature. Pinna Lahav, a distinguished legal scholar, best known for her pioneering research on freedom of expression in Israel, breaks down barriers between law and life, all too often typical of legal literature here.

Her epic study of Agranat is history in the grand manner, both of a man and of a nation. It draws apart the silken curtain. No longer hidden behind the uniform mask of a guild-like order, the judge becomes a man shaped by his personal history and shaping the history of his time. The narrative of his life is sharply defined by the trauma of Zionism, lived as experience, not as theory.

Agranat was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1906 to immigrant parents, and grew up in the Progressive era of American history whose social philosophy infused the home-bred Zionism of his early intellectual development. Like his role-model, Justice Louis D. Brandeis, he conceived a merger of the two. His Zionism reflected the values and ideals of America of the Progressive era. At an intimate, personal level, perhaps his greatest success was that he refused to be absorbed in the Yishuv of Mandatory Palestine or in the conformist environment of post-independence Israel. The melting-pot was not for Agranat. He continued to prefer "Simon" to "Shimon," and the renunciation of American citizenship—required for appointment to the bench even in the Mandatory period—was a significant personal crisis.

The bench in Israel's formative period inherited its traditions from Britain and its guiding spirit from the Central and Eastern European origins of its judges. This produced a high degree of formalism in the judicial process, insulated against the influences of its social and political environment. Lahav traces Agranat's career as a figure, in which the two themes of Progressive involvement and formalist abstention interact in a constant conflict which is never fully resolved and produces varying results in Agranat's judicial output.

At this personal level, Lahav's biography of Agranat comes across as a companion volume to Robert A. Burt's stimulating study of Brandeis and Frankfurter, *Two Jewish Justices: Outcasts in the Promised Land* (Berkeley, 1988). Burt suggests that Brandeis was able to identify with his status as an outsider because he experienced his alienation vicariously, not directly, as had the immigrant generation. Hence, his outsider role was that of the prophet—Isaiah, as his contemporaries saw him—trusting "the people's capacity to govern themselves in the pursuit of transcendent norms... prepared to risk social disorder because they [prophets] give highest value to individual choice as the reliable route toward salvation."

What happens to the Jewish justice when the "Promised Land" is not the *golden medina*, but the Promised Land, and the alienation is not vicarious, but involves personal cultural transplantation? Under these conditions, the very concept of insider-outsider undergoes a Kafkaesque metamorphosis. What is it like, asks the author in effect, to be a Jew, the eternal stranger, in the Jewish state?

At the historical level, Lahav emphasizes the conflict between the utopian Zionism, with which Agranat associated, tied as it was, through his mentor, Brandeis, with the Progressive tradition; and catastrophe Zionism, the Zionism of the survivors. In his judicial role, Agranat was confronted with the major themes of Israel's national renaissance: the Holocaust (the Kastner and the Eichmann cases), Arab rights (the decisions involving El Ard, a Nasserist nationalist group, in the 1960s), Jewish identity (the Shalit "Who is a Jew?" landmark), and the national trauma of the Yom Kippur War (the Agranat Commission).

He also placed his mark on the development of the core institutions of the nation's legal structure: the role of the attorney-general (the first Agranat Commission, 1962), the leadership role of the chief justice within the court (revealed by Lahav in interview data on an area of judicial life that has, until now, been the subject of conjecture, the facts carefully concealed behind the curtain of judicial anonymity), and the role of the court itself.

However, Agranat's most important contribution was unquestionably the 1953 decision in the Kol Ha'am case, which gave

judicial protection to freedom of the press, even in the absence of a written constitution. If there was one single act that constituted a constitutional revolution, it was Agranat's judgment, recognizing the values embedded in Israel's declaration of independence as judicial guidelines. Judicial review, whose scope has altered over time, has been part of our legal firmament ever since. The Basic Laws of 1952 were, in this sense, a change in degree, not in essence. Chief Justice Barak to the contrary notwithstanding.

In the Kol Ha'am decision, Agranat adopted a variant of the clear and present danger test, propounded by Holmes and Brandeis during the Progressive era, as modified by conservative



The Israeli melting-pot was not for Agranat. He continued to prefer "Simon" to "Shimon," and the renunciation of American citizenship—required for appointment to the bench even in the Mandatory period—marked a significant personal crisis.

jurists during the period of the cold war. Significantly, Agranat visited the United States at the time of the landmark decision upholding the conviction of leaders of the American Communist Party for sedition. In Kol Ha'am Agranat applied the conservative version of clear and present danger, enunciated by the American court, to achieve the libertarian result of annulling the administrative suspension of publication of the Communist newspapers.

At times, particularly in his later years on the bench, Agranat opted for conservative results, while reiterating the libertarian themes of his Progressive past, as in his hands-off minority judgment in the "Who is a Jew?" controversy. Lahav discerns a growing conservatism with advancing age. She also claims an augmented influence of notions of the judicial process that challenge activism in controversial areas. These conclusions deserve close scrutiny. Much that is intrinsic to the judicial role may be at play here, particularly in cases that involved a reluctance on Agranat's part to take action in sensitive areas where responsibility was clearly in other hands. Judicial self-restraint, it is worth noting, was championed by Agranat's mentor, Louis D. Brandeis, his role-model from the Progressive era. It was Brandeis who codified, in the so-called Ashwander rules, the self-denying code of judicial nonintervention in constitutional questions in the United States.

In our recent burst of judicial activism, which Lahav applauds, these rules are sometimes cited, but almost invariably disregarded. Agranat, in an introduction he authored to Elyakim Rubinstein's survey of the beginnings of Israel's Supreme Court, quoted Alexander Bickel: "We were incapable of possessing our past save in temporal segments."

Lahav has enabled us to possess our past, in a crucial area of national life, by taking as her temporal segment the life of one man. She could not have made a better choice. If this book reads like a novel, it is because it recounts a gripping narrative that holds us where we live. Lahav tells the story with the empathy of the insider-outsider and the sensitivity of the observer who is also a participant in the saga.

Rushdie, le Carré in verbal brawl

By Bill Glauber

British literary brawls don't get much better than this: John le Carré vs. Salman Rushdie.

The heavyweight novelists went for each other's jugular for days in the pages of the *Guardian* newspaper over freedom of speech.

Le Carré fired off a verbal jab: "Rushdie's way with the truth is as self-serving as ever." Rushdie unloaded a book: "If he ever wants to win an argument, John le Carré could begin by learning to read."

At first glance, the fight appeared to center on Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses*, for which he was sentenced to death in 1989 by Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for alleged blasphemy to Islam.

But last week, *Guardian* columnist Mark Lawson revealed what could have been the true spark to the dispute: a bad review.

In June 1989, Rushdie dismissed le Carré's *Russia House*, writing: "le Carré wants to be taken seriously... close—but this time anyway—no cigar."

Lawson said that in an October 1989 unpublished letter to the *Guardian*'s New York correspondent, le Carré wrote: "When the death sentence against Rushdie was first pronounced, I saluted his courage. As time went by and I had a chance to think, I realized that I had less and less sympathy with



Salman Rushdie and John le Carré

Rushdie's position." Le Carré also argued that Rushdie's controversial book should not have been published in paperback.

The fracas went public after the *Guardian* reprinted a le Carré speech in which the author spoke of being misunderstood by some American critics who accused him of antisemitism in his latest novel, *The Tailor of Panama* (see interview in *The Jerusalem Post*, November 21). Rushdie, who has lived under armed guard since the death edict was proclaimed against him, wrote that le Carré was "eagerly and rather pompously joining forces with my assailants."

The gloves were off. The next day, le Carré responded: "There is no law in life or nature that says that great religious may be insulted with impunity," le Carré wrote. He was "more concerned about the girl in Penguin Books who might get her hands blown off in the mailroom than I was about Rushdie's royalties." And he finished with a flourish: "My purpose was not to justify the persecution of Rushdie, which, like any decent person, I deplore."

but to sound a less arrogant, less colonialist and less self-righteous note than we were hearing from the safety of his admirers' camp."

The following day came the Rushdie retaliation. "I'm grateful to John le Carré for refreshing all our memories about exactly how pompous an ass he can be," Rushdie wrote.

"John le Carré is right to say that free speech isn't an absolute," he added. "We have the freedom to fight for, and we lose those we don't defend. I'd always thought George Smiley [le Carré's most famous character] knew that. His creator appears to have forgotten." By the fourth round, le Carré sounded as weary as one of his characters from his Cold War espionage novels.

He wrote: "What I do know is, Rushdie took on a known enemy and screamed 'foul' when it acted in character. The pain he has had to endure is appalling, but it doesn't make a martyr of him, nor—much as he would like it to—does it sweep away all argument about the ambiguities of his participation in his own downfall."

The fifth round ended with a low blow. Rushdie thundered: "John le Carré appears to believe I would prefer him not to go on abusing me. Let me assure him that I am of precisely the contrary opinion. Every time he opens his mouth, he digs himself into a deeper hole. Keep digging John, keep digging. Me, I'm going back to work." If they keep up this pace, these writers might end up with a joint bestseller.

(The Baltimore Sun)

The 'first runaway'

MANNY by Isaac Rosen, Dallas, Texas, Baskerville Publishers. 185 pp. \$20.

By Morton I. Teicher

This strange, meandering first novel defies the convention that stories need to have a beginning, a middle and an end. Rather, the focus here is on fleshing out the character and personality of the narrator, Josh Lipkin. He is a 16-year-old who describes himself as the "first Jewish runaway in the history of New York City, maybe the world."

Josh is the lonely son of an alcoholic mother and an obsessive father who is preoccupied with cleanliness. Deprived of any meaningful family interaction, Josh seeks to form relationships by

smuggling into nursing homes. There, he claims that he is related to one of the residents and he forms a number of friendships in this peculiar way. Unfortunately, these are not long lasting since death overtakes the old people with whom he becomes familiar.

As he wanders around New York, skipping school and failing to report for work in his father's liquor store, Josh meets Manny, a woman twice his age. He is attracted to her and she is in need of a companion since her boy friend, Patrick, has suddenly disappeared.

Josh and Manny embark on a search for Patrick that takes them to Cape Cod, where Patrick's parents live. There, they hook up with a retired Boston detective who follows them when they return to New York, their hunt for Patrick having

failed. The slow pace of the story abruptly changes in the last 10 pages as many of the loose ends are hastily wrapped up. This shift in pace has the virtue of letting us know what happened to Josh, Manny and the others in the book but is out of kilter with the rest of the narrative.

The author, Isaac Rosen, aged 30, is a freelance journalist who has written news and feature stories of several newspapers, including the *Boston Globe*. He lives in Cape Cod with his wife and two stepchildren. His obvious familiarity with the Cape is reflected in the book. At present, Rosen is busy writing his second novel. His success in persuading us that the experiences and feelings of his characters are authentic augurs well for his next effort.

BOOK BYTES

With the profits from their *Gone with the Wind* sequel *Scarlett* still jangling in their pockets, Warner Books are about to exhumate another oldie. This time it is *Casablanca*. The classic 1942 Humphrey Bogart began life as a play, *Everybody Comes to Rick's*, by Murray Burnett. The rights to the play are owned by, guess who, Warner Studios.

Due out in 1998 and tentatively titled *As Time Goes By*, the sequel has been assigned to Michael Walsh, a music critic and contributing editor to *Time* magazine (another Warner product). Walsh's first novel, *Exchange Alley*, a convoluted detective thriller with a JFK assassination wrinkle, came out last June and was published by—who else?—Warner Books.

THE SPIDERY trail to publication of *Winona's Web* began when first-time novelist Priscilla Cogan secured the services of a New York agent. Unfortunately, the agent lost patience in his efforts to further the book's progress, and suggested that Cogan find herself a small-press publisher.

Eventually, the author took her book, the love story of an old Sioux medicine woman called Winona Pathfinder, to her roots at Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. There, Face-to-Face Books, an imprint of Midwest Traditions, bought the novel and ran off 3,000 copies.

Thanks to good reviews and local interest, *Winona's Web* out-sold John Grisham in some parts of the Midwest. As a result, a small New York-based publishing house, produced 2,000 more copies. Then Doubleday/Main Street came along and bought the

paperback rights. Two follow-up books, to be published by Simon & Schuster, are in the works. Cogan, a psychologist, teaches workshops in cross-cultural healing with her Native American husband, who is also a psychologist.

BRITISH top-selling novelist Edwina Currie announced the break-up of her 25-year marriage during a promotion tour for her latest book, aptly titled *She's Leaving Home* (Little Brown).

Currie first came to prominence in 1983 as a Conservative MP and junior health minister, who resigned under fire during an out-break of salmonella poisoning. In her second career, Currie turned to writing political pot-boilers.

Her marriage to accountant-businessman Ray Currie effectively cut her off from her Orthodox Jewish family, a branch that lasted until her father died. Despite the divorce, Currie defiantly remarked, "I'm glad I did it [married Ray]. It was not something I regret at all."

IT'S HARD to believe that Danielle Steel, whose books have 340 million copies in print, needs a \$1.5 m. advertising campaign. When asked, "Who else is there to reach?" Dell publisher's Carole Baron answered: "There's always more." At center of the Dell campaign is the promotion of "Danielle Steel Reading Groups."

Thirty-second television spots show cozy-looking groups sitting around elegant living rooms discussing the works of America's favorite author.

Baron explains: "While many of her fans have read all the books, not all of them have. We're incentivizing them to go to the backlist."

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
2. The Ghost by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte \$25.95.) On a trip to New England, a man finds answers to his problems in an old trunk.
3. Cat & Mouse by James Patterson. (Little, Brown \$24.95.) Alex Cross versus two serial killers.
4. Another City, Not My Own by Dominick Dunne. (Crown \$25.) The O.J. Simpson murder trial as witnessed and participated in by a journalist.
5. The Letter by Richard Paul Evans. (Simon & Schuster \$15.95.) In the last volume of the "Christmas Box" trilogy, the Parkin family recovers from the loss of a daughter.
6. Violin by Ann Rice. (Knopf \$25.95.) From 19th-century Vienna to present-day New Orleans: a demonic fiddler preys upon a woman who loves his music.
7. Survival of the Fittest by Jonathan Kellerman. (Bantam \$24.95.) Alex Delaware pursues the killer of a diplomat's teenage daughter.
8. Lucky You by Carl Hiaasen. (Knopf \$24.) A journalist undertakes to help a woman whose winning lottery ticket has been stolen.
9. Come the Spring by Julie Garwood. (Pocket \$24.) The visit of a stranger to the Clayborns: reunion threatens to spoil the family's happiness.
10. The Matinee Countdown by Robert Ludlum. (Bantam \$27.50.) A CIA officer struggles to thwart the return of an international cabal.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
2. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
3. The Dark Side of Camelot by Seymour M. Hersh. (Little, Brown \$26.95.) A journalist's reappraisal of the private and public life of John F. Kennedy.
4. Citizen Soldiers by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Simon & Schuster \$27.50.) The US Army from Normandy to the Battle of Germany's surrender.
5. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
6. The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. (Norton \$23.95.) An account of the nor'easter of 1991.
7. The Man Who Listens to Horses by Monty Roberts. (Random House \$10.) The memoirs of a horse trainer.
8. Diane: Her True Story—in Her Own Words by Andrew Morton. (Simon & Schuster \$22.95.) The 1992 bestseller, updated and expanded.
9. The Millionaire Next Door by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22.) Wealthy Americans share seven characteristics.
10. Dirty Jokes and Beer by Drew Carey. (Hyperion \$22.95.) Observations on his life and life in general by the comedian.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. Wizard and Glass by Stephen King. (Plume \$17.95.) Volume 4 of *The Dark Tower*, a series about time and a heroic past.
2. Tom Clancy's Power Plays: Politics created by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg. (Bantam \$7.50.) In 1989, an American contends with terrorists threatening his business in Russia.
3. Unfinished Symphony by V.C. Andrews. (Pocket \$7.50.) Healy Logan goes to California in quest of her missing mother and stepfather.
4. Total Control by David Baldacci. (Warner Vision \$7.50.) A woman's efforts to find her husband reveals the ways of big business.
5. Sole Survivor by Dean Koontz. (Bantam \$7.99.) A reporter searches for a woman who claims to know a secret about the plane crash that killed his family.
6. Say You Love Me by Johanna Lindsey. (Avon \$8.99.) In Regency England, a penniless orphan finds love after being hired as a maid.
7. A Virtuous Woman by Kaye Gibbons. (Vintage \$10.) The daughter of a Carolina gentry finds love with a tenant farmer.
8. Ellen Foster by Kaye Gibbons. (Vintage \$10.) A girl learns self-reliance growing up with wicked relatives in the backwoods South.
9. Airframe by Michael Crichton. (Ballantine \$7.99.) A young woman probes a plane's near disaster on its way from Hong Kong to Denver.
10. The List by Steve Martin. (Jove \$7.50.) A writer's scheme to get her novel on the bestseller list leads to murder and endangers her own life.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. Undaunted Courage by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
2. Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
3. Underboos by Peter Mass. (Harper Paperbacks \$6.99.) A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in Brooklyn.
4. The Color of Water by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in Brooklyn.
5. A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Householders sue industrial polluters.
6. Hanson by Jill Matthews. (Archway/Pocket \$3.99.) The story of the pop-rock group.
7. Girlfriends by Carmen Renee Berry. (Wildcat Canyon \$12.95.) The ties that bind women of all ages.
8. Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) A young man's obsession with the wilderness ends tragically in Alaska.
9. Seven Years in Tibet by Heinrich Harrer. (Tarcher/Putnam \$13.95.) An Austrian mountaineer recounts his adventures in the 1940s.
10. Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher. (Ballantine \$12.50.) The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
3. Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Read Hawthorne, and Mard Shinnott. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
4. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. Joy of Cooking by Irma S. Rombauer, Marion Rombauer Becker and Ethan Becker. (Scribner \$30.) Revision of the book first published in 1931.
2. Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
3. Making Faces by Karyn Aucoin. (Little, Brown \$28.95.) Counsel about cosmetics from a makeup artist.
4. Men Are From Mars, Women From Venus by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$23.) Improving communication and relationships.

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A needless strike

Yesterday's nationwide strike in the public sector brought to mind the old joke about the news announcer who saves air time by listing the industries which have not gone on strike.

This is no laughing matter, however. Aside from the millions of shekels lost to the economy and the inconvenience caused to the citizens of the country as traffic lights failed, water supplies ran low and rubbish mounds reached the sky, there is the distressing sense that none of the above is really connected to the true issues facing the economy. It appears as if the major players in the drama, particularly Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, have allowed themselves to react to silly provocations instead of seriously examining their role in repairing ailing parts of the nation's economy. And there is plenty that needs fixing.

This strike is being held in the proliferating tradition of striking without any clear purpose. Labor unions used to call for strikes to achieve something specific for their members' benefit. Strikes which attained reasonable wages for the weaker segments of society and improved working conditions ultimately strengthened economies by contributing to consumer spending and increased worker output.

In contrast, the Histadrut in recent years has seemed to make the strike the end instead of the means, often groping during the labor action for justifications for the shutdown. Workers themselves, when queried, often cannot state exactly why they have walked off the job. The reasons given are either extremely varied and unfocused, or so broadly defined, such as protests against unemployment and privatization plans, that it is difficult to fathom what specific actions will satisfy the strikers and bring them back to work. It is no wonder that many have come to suspect that Histadrut strikes are muscle-flexing and publicity-generating vehicles for union heads, or actions aimed at protecting highly paid employees at monopolistic and powerful public corporations.

But Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman handed the Histadrut a powerful public relations victory at the beginning of the week with his ill-judged statements demonizing workers as exploding bombs who make Israel's external enemies superfluous. Though Neeman apologized, insisting the remarks had been taken out of context, they were conveniently cited by the Histadrut as the justification for the current strike.

The finance minister has, in recent months, moved to an increasingly central and powerful position in the government. He has managed to do this by cultivating an image of an intelligent, caring, and reasonable public figure, free of partisan pressures. The Neeman who

uttered the disparaging comments on Monday, however, brought back memories of his conduct after he was appointed justice minister 18 months ago. Neeman then made so many unrestrained verbal attacks against the legal system that senior officials at the Justice Ministry privately spoke of quitting in protest and could barely conceal their glee when he resigned. Neeman, in his present post, cannot allow himself to slip back into that adversarial relationship with those with whom he deals.

His poor choice of words also overshadowed the serious point Neeman was making in his speech: that municipal budgets in this country have careened dangerously out of control. The litany of municipal deviations from proper budget accounting was stunning. It included vehicle allowances for employees who do not have cars, bonuses just for showing up at work, physical exertion bonuses for office workers, 560% overtime pay and of course the infamous cases of NIS 40,000-a-month salaries. It is no surprise that under these conditions local authorities, despite constant property tax rises, regularly run huge deficits and require NIS 4 billion in Interior Ministry allocations just to clear their books.

Such a situation cannot be permitted to continue. Peretz, for his part, claims that the Histadrut is in favor of ending municipal budget deviations and that Neeman is using the deviations as an excuse to worsen the conditions of all workers.

The proper way of tackling the problem would thus appear to be a Histadrut-backed Treasury effort to prevent local government deviations by appointing independent auditors to oversee their budgets. The government could then in turn commit both to helping local authorities get back in the black and to meeting some of the Histadrut demands with respect to municipal employee rights. Instead, the Treasury appears helpless in the face of the hemorrhage of public money while the Histadrut calls for damaging strikes.

The local government mess is only one of a host of issues that need to be dealt with. The budget must be approved by the end of the month, public-sector wage negotiations loom and the real issue bothering the Histadrut—pension coverage—remains in contention. The last subject alone threatens to spin out of control, if Histadrut demands for increased pension commitments burdens the public beyond its capacity.

Treasury and union leaders wishing to act responsibly need to sit down and negotiate these major issues before they get out of hand, instead of providing unnecessary ammunition for populist leaders to seize upon.

L'Etat c'est moi



Indyk's fingerprints

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

Minister Netanyahu until the end of the year to make a significant move on halting settlement activity and handing back land to the Palestinians. In short, the Israeli gesture was not good enough.

Then came the bombshell of a major shift of US policy: President Clinton is likely to make a public declaration outlining what would be a "viable Palestinian entity" on

Indyk is still smarting at the Israeli Jews who ignored his advice to vote for Peres

the West Bank with its eastern border along the Jordan river open to Jordan and with easy access to other Arab neighbors.

"This approach," added Hurst, "runs counter to what Netanyahu has been trying to achieve—primarily the return of as little of the West Bank as possible while blunting any move toward an independent Palestinian state."

THIS scenario of giving up a defensive belt on the Jordan is contrary to the stand taken by every Israeli government, both Labor and Likud, in the past. This is the essence of the dicta: No, Mr. Netanyahu, your withdrawal plan is not good enough. No way. You will retreat so that Arafat will have easy access to the entire Arab world.

The result means that there will be no Israeli security control anywhere on its eastern front to ensure Israel's safety. It is an invitation for Iranian, Iraqi or Syrian "advisers" or arms to simply flood the once-upon-a-time Jewish provinces of Judea and Samaria. The entire Arab world will be within a stone's throw not only of Israeli settlements, but many of its cities too, especially Jerusalem and not far either from Tel Aviv's most fashionable suburbs.

Even the Labor Party at its most charitable has never suggested such a perilous course for Israel. King Hussein too, will be alarmed at the

prospect of Arafat's armed toughs having easy access to their fellow Palestinian brothers in Jordan. His throne will be in grave jeopardy. Martin Indyk's fingerprints are clearly written all over this new State Department blueprint unveiled by CNN.

True, 24 hours later came the soothing "good guy" back-tracking by White House spokesman Mike McCurry. "This means of pressuring Israel sounds like the sort of speculation that sometimes arises in the region, that usually ends up...as being misplaced."

Perhaps the aggressive impetus of State Department's refurbished traditional hostility towards Israel, and the influence of Martin Indyk, is pure coincidence. But as the Kabbalists explain, there is no such thing as a coincidence in life.

It is no secret that Indyk believes firmly in the Oslo agreements, that Netanyahu always "collapses under pressure," and that therefore, one can ensure that Israel will retreat virtually to its pre-1967 borders. This is despite the fact that Indyk knows full well that if there is consensus in Israel, it is over the retention of a security belt of territory on its border with Jordan. When Netanyahu meets Albright in Paris tomorrow, he will point out just how wrong—again—Indyk is.

The Alon plan, drawn up under a Labor administration, made this point clear, just as do the maps drawn up for the present government by Ariel Sharon, which call for a 20-kilometer wide buffer zone between any Palestinian entity and the Jordanian border.

We are not privy to whether Indyk was the instigator of the Palestine-Jordan open border concept. But other than the White House playing down the idea, there was no such back-pedaling from him about the startling CNN report.

Indyk was an unpopular US ambassador in Israel generally. He was the only ambassador to the Jewish state who failed to make a courtesy call on Eli Landau, mayor of Herzliya, where the ambassador's residence is found.

And to think that this is the same man who stood and prayed in a seat behind a writer of this column in a Jerusalem synagogue last Yom Kippur eve.

The writers are Jerusalem Post columnists.

Today there are hundreds of non-government-run magazines, newspapers, publishing houses and radio stations operating throughout the country, disseminating information and opinion on a wide variety of issues, state-approved and otherwise. While political democratization has been painfully slow to materialize at the national level, the picture appears considerably brighter at the grass-roots level. Since 1987, in tens of thousands of rural districts throughout China, farmers have participated in the nomination and election of village officials, a procedure that has visibly increased the responsibility and accountability of local leaders. This system of grass-roots democracy will shortly be extended upward to the township level, offering town dwellers an unprecedented alternative to the traditional, rubber-stamp ratification of party-nominated leaders.

Wei Jingsheng's prison experience reminds us that the much-heralded Chinese revolution of rising expectations has yet to produce either significant political reform or enhanced political tolerance at the top. Just beneath the surface, however, the transformative power of the marketplace is working its silent magic.

While such a historic development does not guarantee a smooth or successful democratic transition, the recent history of Taiwan and South Korea suggests that when newly emergent social forces begin to gain economic autonomy and self-confidence, even highly insecure, rigidly authoritarian one-party regimes may be powerfully constrained to transform themselves or face extinction.

(Los Angeles Times)

Self-interest

LARRY DERFNER

Why all this Jewish outrage when the Clinton administration complains that Netanyahu's government is causing them problems in bringing the Arabs on board, as they say, against Saddam Hussein?

I don't think Bill Clinton or Madeleine Albright are lying, or making up excuses. I don't think they're mistaken, either. What they're saying makes perfect sense.

The Arabs don't like Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—at all. And for all its reservations, the Clinton administration is still holding Netanyahu's hand, shlep-ping him around, cleaning up after him, standing by him to a greater or lesser degree. Aside from Micronesia, America is the only defender, even partial defender, that Netanyahu has today. In the international arena, the Clinton administration is single-handedly keeping him on his feet.

So is it any wonder that when America's leaders ask the Arab states to line up behind them against Iraq, they find that their credit, their stature, their powers of persuasion have dimmed somewhat? That because they are tied to the Netanyahu government, they suffer a certain amount of guilt by association?

I'm sure the Arabs have plenty of other considerations in deciding what to do and what not to do about Saddam. Israel's policy toward the Palestinians, and America's relations with Israel, are only one factor, and probably not the decisive one.

And Clinton and Albright, it should be emphasized, are not saying that Netanyahu's conduct of the peace process is their sole obstacle in getting rid of Saddam's chemical and biological weapons. That would be grossly unfair, and ridiculous—so unfair and ridiculous that I don't think they would suggest such a thing.

What they're saying is that Netanyahu's relations with the Arab world is one of their prob-

Unlike our prime minister, the US president and secretary of state ought to be taken at their word

lems in trying to contain Saddam. The point they're making is that in America's most critical foreign policy effort of the day, Israel's policy toward the Arab world, especially the Palestinians, is a net hindrance.

Shocking, isn't it? This is an unthinkable thought for most Jews—that Israel, the sole democracy in the Middle East, sharer of American values, and partner in a special relationship, could conceivably do anything that might mess up America's plans in even the slightest way.

Yet this is what Uncle Bill and Aunt Madeleine are trying to tell us. And since America has, over the years, tossed a few bucks our way, given us a few guns, a bullet or two, and put in a good word for us here and there, I think we might want to listen to what they're saying. We might even want to listen with a degree of—gulp—sympathy.

LET'S understand: The Clinton administration didn't get as deeply involved as it has in the Oslo peace process so it could damage its relations with the Arab world. Yet since Netanyahu took over, this is what's happening.

And the most pitiful thing is that the US is taking this blow to its diplomatic power not for the sake of a policy it believes in, but for one it doesn't believe in.

Clinton and Albright honestly disagree with Netanyahu's claim that the Palestinians are in total violation of the Oslo Accords and that Israel is in total compliance.

They really don't buy the idea that the West Bank settlements further the cause of peace and democracy. In their heart of hearts, they don't see Netanyahu as the guy in the white hat and Arafat as the guy in the black hat.

But enough sympathy for America. First and foremost, we have to take care of our own interests, and if America gets a little scuffed up in the process—sorry, but we couldn't help it.

We just have to understand that America is also looking out mainly for Number One. When Clinton and Albright say Netanyahu's handling of the peace process unintentionally hurts America's Iraq policy, they're signalling that it could hurt America's Iraq policy, too.

They know their country's interests. They're not making this stuff up. Unlike our prime minister, the US president and secretary of state ought to be taken at their word—for our own good.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QORREQT SPELLING

Sir, — To the concern of the English-speaking citizens of Israel, the derisive laughter of tourists, and no doubt the turning in their graves of the ancient Caesars, we have discovered that the Minister of Transport and his staff in their "wisdom" and "expert" knowledge, have decided to drop the letter C from the alphabet, and have inserted the letter Q!

From the road signs we have seen that the word Caesarea is now written as QYSARIA!!! So we can only gather that from now on, according to the minister, the crowded condition on the roads, the lack of courtesy of the drivers of cars, taxis, scooters, and other garriages, are of a minor nature.

The average citizen can now gurry on to Qysaria where on the qoast he can drink qappuqino, and other forms of qoffee at the qafes there. Also qoffee can be had at the qafe at the golf qourse. I personally think that this is a quite way the minister has decided to get our minds off the dreadful game on our roads.

Qesar qarne, he saw, and qon-qerred everybody except the minister of transport.

DENNIS GOLDSTEIN

Netanya.

LACK OF GRATITUDE

Sir, — Jonathan Rosenblum ("The Need to Apologize," November 28) claims that the secular establishment owes the religious public an apology over their treatment of immigrants at the beginning of the State. While the treatment was not ideal, Rosenblum shows a tremendous lack of gratitude.

Without those "secular" pioneers, there would have been no state for the refugees from Europe and the Arab countries. According to the Maharal of Prague, one who does not show appreciation to man will eventually deny God credit for the acts He has performed. Would Rosenblum also complain about the lack of kosher food given to Jewish children hidden by gentile families

during the Holocaust?

Not only do the founders of the state deserve all of our thanks, the haredim themselves owe an apology. First of all, if they had not opposed aliya from Europe, thousands of lives might have been saved. And even in regard to Rosenblum's own concern, the religious life of the immigrant youth, all of the blame cannot be placed on the "secular." If the religious had immigrated in greater numbers, the character of the state would have been different, and the immigrants would have been able to remain observant more easily.

DAVID CURWIN

Kvutza Yavne.

HEIGHT OF UNREASON

Sir, — There has been much talk of building yeshivot and housing in the Moslem Quarter in Jerusalem's Old City where the yeshiva student was killed last month. It should occur to all concerned that by so doing we will create Jewish hostages for Arab murderers to shoot. It is the height of unreason to build there and put Jewish lives at risk. There are enough yeshivot and

building in the Moslem Quarter is not worth the life of a single Jewish man.

There will be voices who will cry surrender, as if our presence there adds to a united and undivided Jerusalem. Let us not engage in vain acts, it does us no credit.

ARTHUR GRUDER

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 4, 1932, The Palestine Post reported that an agreement transferring control of the Jewish public schools from the Jewish Agency to the Va'ad Leumi was signed in Jerusalem.

Liquor sales in Palestine had increased 12-fold since World War I due to the decline of Moslem rule and the growth of British influence.

50 years ago: On December 4, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the scene of Arab mob violence had shifted to the Jaffa-Tel Aviv area, where six Arabs and four Jews were killed. In

Jerusalem Yitzhak Penzo was killed near the Jaffa Gate. He was with a Hagana evacuation squad in the burning Commercial Center when a gang of Arabs broke the curfew. A number of Jews and Arabs were wounded in a confused fighting in the Old City. One Armenian died of shock. Twenty-three Arabs, 21 Jews and a British constable were treated at the hospitals. Abraham Katzengold, 19, was found murdered in Haifa.

The Hagana stated that it had so far abstained from reprisals, confining itself to counter-attacks and defensive actions.

In Cairo students attacked foreigners. British, American, Greek

and other property was damaged.

25 years ago: On December 4, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that production of the newspaper was severely hampered by a telephone technicians' strike. Most international phones were also out.

The cabinet approved Hadera as the site for the country's next big electric power station.

Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek said that he wanted to have neighboring relations with Bethlehem, not to annex it.

Light airborne shipments of arms were still flowing into Syria.

Alexander Zivelli

مكتبة القدس

Weekender

A spin down memory lane

A slew of classic-rock reissues makes music stores seem like time machines

By CHARLES SOLOMON

Is this the 1960s, the '70s or the '90s? Given the new releases by Led Zeppelin, the Doors, Simon and Garfunkel, the Beach Boys, Cream, the Jimi Hendrix Experience, Elvis Presley, James Taylor, Fleetwood Mac and others you would be forgiven for thinking that the rock world is in a time warp.

Record companies are delving deeper and deeper into their tape vaults to come up with unused and rare material. They are wringing every last drop out of their catalogs, recycling and reissuing albums which have been remas-

Experience (American, but with a British band) to a receptive if unsuspecting US audience.

Bay Area bands Jefferson Airplane and Big Brother & the Holding Company, fronted by singer Janis Joplin, and soul legend Otis Redding wowed the crowds with their sets, as did the Mamas and the Papas, Simon and Garfunkel, Buffalo Springfield and sitar master Ravi Shankar. It was the seminal counterculture event, but most importantly, it drew talent scouts who signed performers to major record labels.

Simon and Garfunkel's performances did not make it onto the Monterey Pop discs, but their talents are showcased on a new

seriously rival the Beatles for sheer brilliance and inventiveness was the Beach Boys. Thirty years after recording their landmark album *Pet Sounds*, the four-CD *Pet Sounds Sessions* provides a behind-the-scenes look. Many fans and critics compared it to the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. George Martin, the Beatles' longtime producer, said, "Pepper was an attempt to equal *Pet Sounds*."

Some songs appear eight times throughout the set, in different takes, but it gives the listener the chance to hear how classic tracks like "Wouldn't It Be Nice," "Sloop John B" and "Good Vibrations" were carefully and



Eric Clapton's band Cream took pop to places it had never been.

studio and two live albums. Bill Levinson, who produced the award-winning Eric Clapton retrospective, *Crossroads*, says that there was very little unused material to draw from, and what didn't make the original albums was of inferior quality. He was hoping to include live sessions from the BBC archives, but because of legal delays, those will be released at a later date. However, a few unreleased tracks did make it onto the set, like an alternate take of "Lawdy Mama" and 1967 demos.

One thing is clear: the music has not dated. This is an essential collection containing some of the most inventive and exciting rock ever played. At the same time that Cream was stunning audiences on both sides of the Atlantic, a young African-American guitarist was brought to England by his British manager to form another trio, the Jimi Hendrix Experience. Now, 27 years after his death, Hendrix — the most influential guitarist of his generation — is enjoying a resurgence of popularity with the release of *South Saturn Delta*.

The new Universal Records label, in conjunction with the Hendrix family, has unearthed 15 rare and previously unreleased tracks spanning his career. The album contains the hard-to-find "Pali Gap" and previously unreleased versions of "Midnight Lightning" and "STP/LSD," the ballad "Sweet Angel" and an alternative take of "All Along The Watchtower." This is the seventh Hendrix album to enter the *Billboard* charts in the 1990s, a testament to his enduring popularity and influence.

It is also 27 years since the breakup of the Beatles, and Paul McCartney, 55, has conquered the US charts again. But this time it's not the pop charts he's topping, but the classical charts. *Standing*

Behind the 8-ball

By AMY KLEIN

Thoughts of billiards, pool or snooker bring to mind a scene of salty, smoky rooms filled with high stakes, leather jackets, and maybe a blonde moll with one long, stockinged leg languidly kicked out behind her as she leans on the table arching to sink the eight ball, for the game.

The owners of Le Tropic, a pool and snooker club off Ben-Yehuda Street in Jerusalem, obviously never saw that bright, fluorescent-lit downstairs club, as evidenced by the manager's name of sailboats and beach scenes and the neon "Le Tropic" sign, complete with neon parrot.

What this club does manage to project from the aforementioned imagery is an aura of seediness — not the kind where you're afraid to walk in because of the tough guys there, but the sad kind where the tables are chipped, the smoke is acrid, there's no music, and the conversation (a lot of Anglo one-year and yeshiva students), which all contribute to the feeling that this is not the snooker experience you were hoping for.

Le Tropic is open daily (except Shabbat) from 12 noon to 2 a.m. There are three snooker tables, four American pool tables and one English table. A table costs NIS 25 per hour until 6 p.m. and NIS 35 afterwards. Snacks and soft drinks only.



Pot shot: VSP Billiard in Jerusalem's Talpiot

For a more authentic, less dingy ambience, try VSP Billiard in the Talpiot mall. Open from 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. (except Shabbat), they have those low-laying, soft yellow lights whose glow, when bouncing off the green felt tables, evokes a slow Ella Fitzgerald tune and men in suits. They aren't, though. The men — who, in the wee hours are the majority — could be a mix of henpecked husbands, boyfriends in a row with their girls, or single guys who just can't find Ms. Right. Well, here is where they come — to smoke, shoot some pool for NIS 35 per hour (NIS 25 before 6 p.m.), and play the video games and the poker machines (for tokens only).

In a place like this, one expects to find a secret panel that opens onto a high-stakes poker game for VIPs — by invitation only.

In reality, it's just a serious, smoky pool hall. But in the right light and a little imagination, one can almost picture Paul Newman challenging Jackie Gleason as the legendary Minnesota Fats while he sits up the hustler.

Le Tropic, 10 Ben-Yehuda St., Jerusalem, (02) 622-1897

VSP Billiard, Ashdod Mall, Ashdod

Yad Harutzim, Jerusalem, (02) 673-7727

Opera on my mind

Mezzo-soprano Hadar Halevi talks about her favorite operas

Israeli mezzo-soprano Hadar Halevi is slowly but surely conquering the major opera stages of the world. The young, sensationally beautiful Halevi, whose warm caressing voice matches her sensuality, recently performed the title role in *Carmen* in Koblenz, Germany, where her alluring image adorned the posters of the production all over the city. Speaking from Rome, where she lives with her husband and their young son (and awaiting her second child), Halevi says "It is very hard to choose [my favorite operas]. But as a performer, I first of all choose according to what I would like to sing. And I must say that complete operas aside, the one aria I really want to sing is 'Casta diva' from Bellini's *Norma*. I can't do the entire role of Norma, it's for a soprano, but the aria is not that difficult and not that high. I desperately want to do it."

The story but because I want to sing the title role and cannot — it is written for a soprano. The same goes for Desdemona in *Otello*. These are true Italian operas; they are written from the soul and this is where you feel them. They are amazing operas."



1. Carmen (Bizet)

"Because of the character. Each number in this opera is more beautiful than the other and you can hum them all on your way back home. This is a beautiful, interesting and communicative opera. It's great to sing the free-spirited gypsy Carmen. It's the most fun role to do, full of theater, acting and dance, aside from the great music. There is nothing like this opera."

2. The Barber of Seville (Rossini)

"Because of the smile. There is a lot of *joie de vivre* in this opera. You walk on stage with a smile and you end the evening with the same smile. Rossini is not a difficult part to sing, and it's very fulfilling."

3. La traviata and Otello (Verdi)

"Because of the Italian soul. I went into opera to live these wonderful legends of a princess waiting for her prince charming to sweep her up and ride with him to his palace. This is the feeling these operas give me. When I hear *La traviata* I cry, not just because of

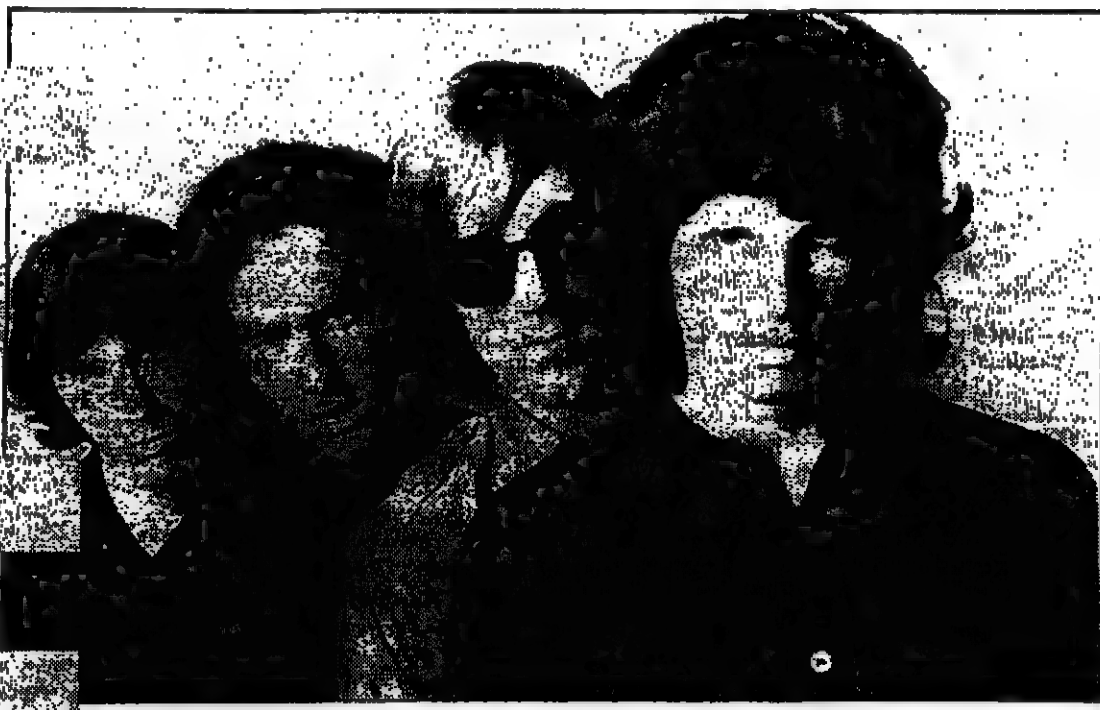
4. Werther (Massenet)

"Because of the music. It is all so intricate. It's music I can listen to forever and ever. In Italian opera I enjoy specific numbers, but I cannot hear a Verdi or Puccini opera 10 times over the other. But *Werther* I can listen to from now to eternity, it's so perfect. And Charlotte is one of the greatest mezzo roles ever written. It's so humane, so musical."

5. Così fan tutte (Mozart)

"Because of Mozart. Mozart is perfect, he always is. This opera is full of great ensembles, ensembles like only Mozart can write ensembles which are fun to sing. When you have a good cast around you and you sing these ensembles, it's worth everything. In this opera, the ensemble singing is much more interesting and rewarding than the solo arias. It's all so clean, purified and perfect, and the singing should be the same. Dorabella is a role I always enjoy singing."

—Michael Ajzenstadt



The Doors' four-CD anthology 'Box Set' showcases the band at its most raw and raucous.

tered to enhance sound quality, or have had bonus tracks added to them in the full knowledge that hard-core fans won't resist it.

During the mid-1970s, Led Zeppelin could claim to be the biggest group in the world. (In 1980, the group broke up after the drummer died after too much drink and drugs.) Its live performances were electrifying, if erratic, and for years bootleg recordings of these concerts circulated. The three remaining band members have agreed to release some of these commercially. The result — the two-CD *Led Zeppelin: The BBC Sessions* — features a recording from June 1969, and highlights from a Paris gig in April 1971. It includes a few versions of some songs, like "Communication Breakdown," to illustrate how the group's performances varied between shows. It also includes classic tracks like "Stairway To Heaven," "Immigrant Song" and "Since I've Been Loving You."

Another "wish you were there" release to hit the stores is the reissuing of *Music from the Monterey International Pop Festival*, held in 1967. The Monterey Festival had far more of an impact on the development of rock music than the 1969 Woodstock festival did. It did not draw the same size crowds, but it did draw the talent, introducing British rock acts like the Who and the Jimi Hendrix

three-CD retrospective, *Old Friends*. The title is slightly misleading, as they were anything but friends, but their personality clashes did not prevent them from creating some of popular music's most enduring songs.

In the music industry, nothing is left to chance. Campaigns of military precision surround each new release, especially when it is by a major money-spinning artist. It is no surprise then that Warner Brothers released the first Paul Simon album of new material in seven years, knowing that he will have a heightened profile with the release of *Old Friends*. *Songs From The Capeman* is a selection of numbers from the musical Simon is preparing for its Broadway opening in January.

One of the most popular bands of the 1970s was Fleetwood Mac, which sold 17 million copies of its 1977 album, *Rumours*, in the US alone. From a band that started as blues purists in the mid-Sixties, it evolved into an unashamedly commercial pop/rock band.

Fleetwood Mac's *Rumours* line-up reunited for the concert album *The Dance*. All the old favorites are here: "Rhiannon," "Go Your Own Way," "Don't Stop," "Say You Love Me" and "Dreams." Seventeen nuggets by Fleetwood Mac, which is touring once again, all sound as fresh and vital as the day they were recorded.

One of the few groups that could

painstakingly crafted. The casual music lover should stick to one of the many "Greatest Hits" packages. But for serious Beach Boys fans, this is a revelation.

A completely different approach was taken for the Doors' four-CD anthology, *Box Set*. Three of the discs contain previously unreleased material, most of it culled from wars-and-all live performances. The three surviving members of the Doors, Ray Manzarek, Robbie Krieger and John Densmore, along with their longtime engineer, Bruce Botnick, decided to show the group at its most raw and raucous. The results are mixed, as the group was notoriously inconsistent on stage. Depending on the state of frontman Jim Morrison, their performances could be either electrifying or a shambles.

The fourth CD contains the Doors' studio favorites like "Light My Fire," "Riders On The Storm" and "L.A. Woman."

Cream — Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce and Ginger Baker — is showcased in the four-disc *Those Were The Days*, and what they were. Their psychedelic blues took popular music to places it had never been. The virtuoso musicians were true pioneers who helped pop evolve into rock.

All the excitement of Cream's short lifespan is captured here. It has few surprises for longtime fans, covering the powerhouse trio's four



'Hourglass' is James Taylor's first disc of new material in six years.

Jerusalem Chamber Orchestra in selections by Byrd, Biber, Soler, Bach, Haydn and Beethoven. In the Notre Dame Center. Tonight at 8:30.

Joseph Plus One plays something called ethnic jazz. Tonight at Habama, 4 Yad Harutzim. Call 679-9922.

Points Beyond

The Ronnie Peterson Blues Band performs tonight at 10. Khan Amir Hagall. Call (06) 698-9815.

Television

Soccer fans rejoice! Today the Eurosport channel is devoting the

Club Indigo, Rehov Namal at the corner of Hayarkon. NIS 30 covers admission, dancing and brewskis. Call 604-3307.

Kina Western sings love songs. Tonight at 10 at Apropro Tzahala. Call 648-7098.

In depicting just one day at a dacha in 1936, Nikita Mikhailov's foreign-language Oscar-winning *Burnt by the Sun* conveys more information than whole semesters of university Sovietology courses. This lustrous jewel of a film (which includes English subtitles) screens tonight at 8:30 at the Cinematheque. Call 691-7181.

Jerusalem

Conductor Eli Freud leads the

By KAREN SULKIS

Tel Aviv

Back when Dana International was in short pants, there was Dr. Frankenfurter. Chicago Pizza Pie Factory's Friday afternoon film series presents the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. So, why don't you come up to the lab and... see what's on the slab, 'cause NIS 55 buys you the screening and unlimited pizza and beer. I bet you're thrilled with anticipation for an afternoon that will be well spent. Tomorrow at 2 p.m. 63 Hayarkon. Reservations suggested. Call 517-7505.

The Green Group is hosting a swinging bash tonight at 10 at

Hot tips

Unlike our prime minister, the US president is not thought to be taken their word

AFTER HOURS

As the sun sets earlier and the weather gets colder, it seems the demand for hearty meals gets louder. Here are eight quick, simple dinner solutions to keep you and your family fed when you don't have a lot of time. Each of these recipes relies on a combination of convenience products and fresh ingredients.

With all of the spices, flavored sauces and international food products that are available in supermarkets today, it's easy to put an ethnic spin – Cajun, Caribbean, Italian or Mexican, for example – on even the most mainstream of dishes. Now throwing together a dinner that everyone loves couldn't be more trouble-free.

PASTA WITH WHITE BEANS AND KALE

Preparation time: 15 minutes.
Cooking time: 15 minutes.

2 1/2 cups uncooked radiatore (short coiled pasta), rigatoni or penne
2 Tbsp. olive oil, divided
3 garlic cloves, minced
200 gr. bottle roasted red bell peppers, drained and sliced
12 cups coarsely chopped kale (about 1/2 kg.)
500 gr. can cannellini beans or other white beans, drained
2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1/4 tsp. coarsely ground pepper
6 Tbsp. grated fresh Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat. Drain pasta in a sieve over a bowl, reserving 1/4 cup cooking liquid; set pasta aside.

Heat 1 Tbsp. oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add minced garlic and sliced bell peppers and sauté 1 minute. Add kale and cannellini beans; cover and cook 5 minutes or until kale is wilted, stirring occasionally. Add cooked pasta, reserved cooking liquid, remaining oil, lemon juice and pepper and stir well. Spoon the pasta mixture into serving bowls and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. (Serves 6.)

MEDITERRANEAN CHICKEN WITH SALSA

Preparation time: 10 minutes.
Cooking time: 15 minutes.

1/4 cup bottled chunky salsa
1/2 cup plum tomato, diced
1/2 cup zucchini, diced
2 Tbsp. ripe olives, chopped
2 tsp. capers
4 chicken breast halves (120 gr. each), skinned and boned
2 Tbsp. Italian-seasoned bread crumbs
2 tsp. olive oil
2 Tbsp. water
black and green olives (optional)

Combine the first 5 ingredients in a bowl and set aside.

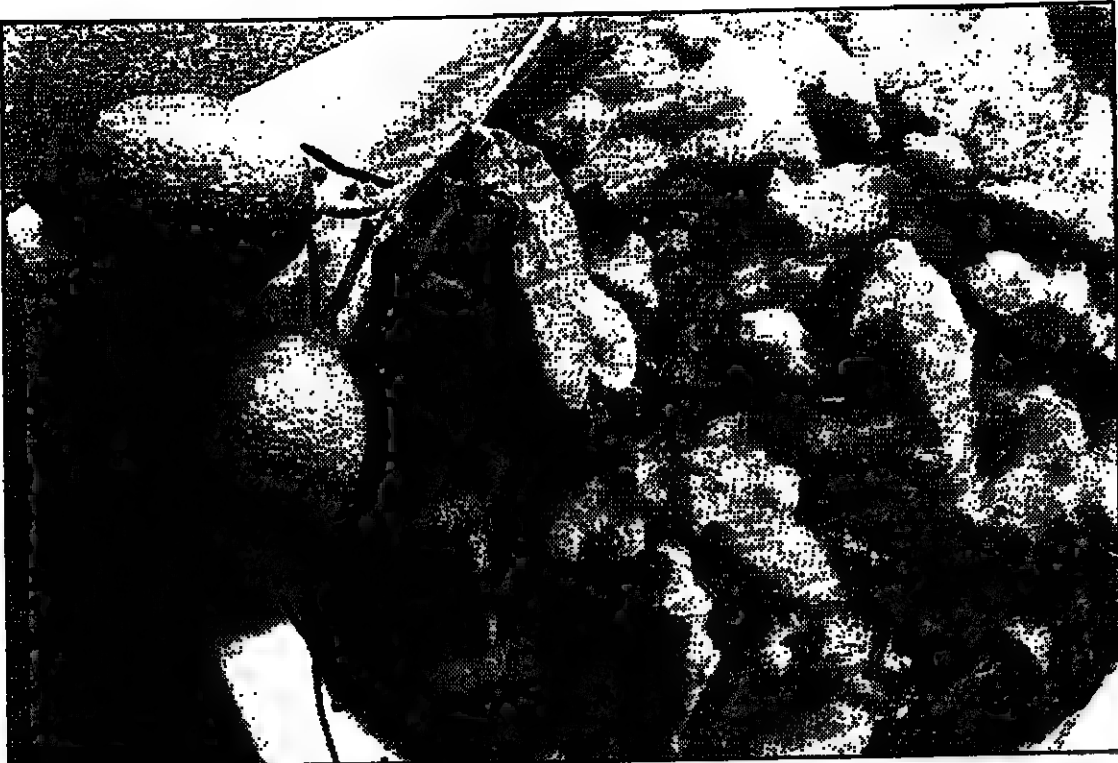
Sprinkle chicken with bread crumbs. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add chicken and cook 2 minutes on each side or until browned. Reduce heat to low and add water.

Cover and cook 8 minutes or until chicken is done. Serve with salsa mixture and garnish with black and green olives, if desired. (Serves 4.)

CARIBBEAN RICE AND BEANS

Preparation time: 15 minutes.
Cooking time: 15 minutes.

1/2 cup water
1/2 cup uncooked instant rice
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
cooking spray
1 cup onion, chopped
1/2 cup celery, chopped
1/2 cup green bell pepper, diced
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 cup tomato, coarsely chopped
1/4 tsp. salt
2 tsp. crushed red pepper
1/4 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 cup fresh coriander, chopped
450 gr. can black beans, drained
1/4 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese



Hearty winter fast food

Eight quick meals with an ethnic kick

Bring water to a boil in a saucepan and stir in rice. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Set aside.

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat until hot. Add onion, celery, bell pepper and garlic; sauté 5 minutes or until tender. Add tomato, salt, crushed red pepper and cumin and sauté 2 minutes. Stir in cooked rice, coriander and black beans and cook for 1 minute or until thoroughly heated. Divide the bean mixture evenly among 4 plates, and sprinkle with cheese. (Serves 4.)

JERK CHICKEN THIGHS

Preparation time: 10 minutes.
Cooking time: 10 minutes.

1 1/2 tsp. ground allspice
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp. ground mace
2 garlic cloves, crushed
450 gr. chicken thighs, skinned and boned
cooking spray

Combine first 7 ingredients in a small bowl. Rub chicken with spice mixture.

Prepare grill or broiler. Place chicken on grill rack or broiler pan coated with cooking spray; grill or broil 4 minutes on each side or until chicken is done. (Serves 4.)

MEXICAN BLACK-BEAN CHILI

Preparation time: 15 minutes.
Cooking time: 19 minutes.

1 cup diced onion
1 cup diced green bell pepper
450 gr. ground chuck
1/2 cups no-salt-added beef broth
1 Tbsp. chili powder
1/4 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. dried oregano
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
3 garlic cloves, crushed
2 450 gr. cans no-salt-added diced tomatoes, undrained
2 450 gr. cans black beans, drained
6 Tbsp. fresh coriander, chopped

Place a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until hot.

Add first 3 ingredients and cook until browned, stirring to crumble. Drain well and return meat mixture to pan.

Add broth and next 8 ingredients (broth through beans) and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes or until slightly thick, stirring occasionally.

Ladle chili into soup bowls and top with coriander. (Serves 6.)

SICILIAN COD

Preparation time: 10 minutes.
Cooking time: 25 minutes.

2 1/2 tsp. olive oil, divided
3 cups sliced onion
2 Tbsp. golden raisins
2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
2 tsp. brown sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
4 cod fillets, 180 gr. each
olive oil-flavored cooking spray
1 Tbsp. Italian-seasoned bread crumbs
1/4 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 230°.

Heat 2 tsp. oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onion and the next 6 ingredients (onion through pepper). Cover and cook 10 minutes or until onion is wilted, stirring occasionally. Set aside; keep warm.

Place fillets in a shallow baking dish coated with cooking spray. Brush fillets with 1/4 tsp. oil; sprinkle with bread crumbs and salt. Bake at 230° for 12 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Serve the onion mixture with fish. (Serves 4.)

CAJUN CHICKEN WITH OKRA

Preparation time: 12 minutes.
Cooking time: 19 minutes.

2 tsp. vegetable oil
4 chicken breast halves (120 gr. each), skinned and boned
1/2 cup low-salt chicken broth
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
450 gr. can stewed tomatoes, undrained and chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
300 gr. package frozen cut okra, thawed
1 1/2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
2 Tbsp. water
1/4 tsp. hot sauce
2 cups cooked long-grain rice

Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add chicken; cook 2 minutes on each side. Add broth, salt, pepper, tomatoes and garlic. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 8 minutes or until chicken is done. Add okra and simmer, covered, 3 minutes.

Combine flour and water in a small bowl, stirring with a whisk. Add to skillet. Simmer, uncovered, 2 minutes or until thick. Stir in hot sauce. Serve over rice. (Serves 4.)

PASTA MEXICANA

Preparation time: 8 minutes.
Cooking time: 25 minutes.

3 1/2 cups uncooked farfalle (bow-tie pasta)
1 Tbsp. margarine
2 garlic cloves, minced
3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. ground red pepper
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups skim milk
1 1/4 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
cooking spray
4 cups zucchini (about 2 medium), sliced 2 cm. wide
2 cups red bell pepper (about 2 medium), in 2 cm. cubes
1 cup sliced green onions

Preheat oven to 175°.

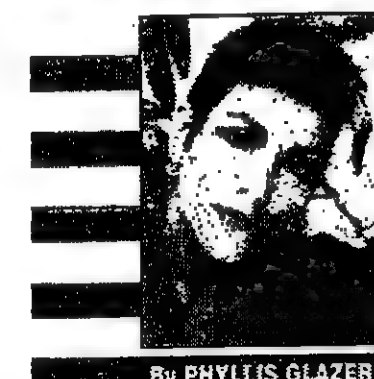
Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt and fat.

Melt margarine in a small nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté 30 seconds. Stir in flour, cumin, red pepper and salt; cook 1 minute. Gradually add milk, stirring constantly. Remove the milk mixture from heat and stir in cheese. Set aside.

Place a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat until hot. Add zucchini and cook 3 minutes. Add bell pepper and cook 1 minute. Combine pasta, vegetables and onions and spoon into a 29 x 20 cm. baking dish coated with cooking spray. Spoon cheese sauce evenly over pasta mixture. Bake at 175° for 15 minutes or until bubbly. (Serves 6.)

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Weekender Food & Drink



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

wafers taste and keep their shape better. NIS 7.95.

Diet cholent (fair-good)

For those who want to shed extra pounds this winter and still enjoy cholent on Shabbat or during the week, the Diet-Li company now is offering a diet meal which includes cholent. Consisting of turkey, potatoes and beans, the cholent is tasty enough to make you wish you had a second helping. (Kids like it, too.) The potatoes, however, do not fare well after freezing. Packaged in its own microwaveable dish, the meal also includes two side dishes – red cabbage and raisins and seasoned, multi-colored peppers – both of which are passable. The entire meal weighs 350 gr. and contains only 311 calories. NIS 31 each.

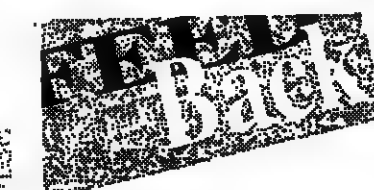
Remember rice pudding? (fair-good)

I have fond memories of rice pudding, even though I'm not sure I ever really liked it. The new Gad Dairy products, sold under the name Yareah Matok (Sweet Moon), remind me of rice pudding, and I'm still not sure that I like it. Both consist of a plastic dish divided in two, with a large chamber of some-

thing like rice pudding and a second little chamber of cinnamon or vanilla sauce. The vanilla sauce was quite good, but the cinnamon sauce was a little overpowering. I think they'd both taste better slightly warmed. NIS 3.90 for 125 gr.

Beaujolais

One of the best public-relations moves in recent years was turning the Beaujolais Festival into an international event. The event involves a simultaneous opening of Beaujolais Nouveau bottles (the first wines of the last harvest) at midnight on the third Thursday in November. This year the Beaujolais festival made a big splash in Tel Aviv, with at least three major parties (some charging an NIS 50 entrance fee), running simultaneously. Revelers gathered at Derech Hayayin on Hashmonaim Street, Slovaik in the Tel Aviv port and Yoezer Bar Yayin in Jaffa. I can't say it wasn't fun, but the wines are young and don't have the complex flavors of aged varieties. Derech Hayayin is selling five types of Beaujolais Nouveau from four French vineyards; four of them cost NIS 52 a bottle. A kosher Beaujolais Nouveau sells for NIS 58.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Where can I find superfine sugar in the Tel Aviv area? It is one of those items that seems too mundane for the gourmet shops, but is unheard of in the supermarkets.

– Mirie Chais, Tel Aviv

Several years ago, Sugat marketed Superfine sugar, but it no longer does so. There is no place that I know of, including Grinstein – a specialty shop for bakers – that sells it. One reader suggested putting sugar in the blender to make it finer, but I am only familiar with using that technique for making powdered sugar.

I have a crepe maker at home. Can I use it to make tortillas?

– Effie Rothfeld, Kfar Sava

Crepes are made from a batter, while tortillas are made from

thinly pressed dough, so your crepe maker is not suitable for making tortillas. To make tortillas, you could use a tortilla press, though I haven't seen them in stores here.

I just made your recipe for "Banana Mini-Muffins" (Feedback, March 28). They are delicious, but you did not include how hot the oven should be.

– Adele Raemer, Kibbutz Nirim

Whenever you have a question about baking temperatures, it is safest to use 180°C (350°F), which is a medium-temperature oven. It is suitable for this recipe as well.

Can you give me a few ideas about where to find recipes on the Internet?

– Margery Mann, Haifa

There are many web sites, but for a start, try <http://www.epicurious.com>, which has more than 6,000 recipes from *Bon Appetit* and *Gourmet* magazines and information about food. You can search the site by ingredient, name of dish or time of year. You can find quick elegant recipes

from famous chefs at <http://www.starchefs.com/Quick.html>. The Searchable Online Archive of Recipes (<http://soar.Berkeley.edu/recipes/>) lists almost 40,000 recipes, including recipes for those on special and restricted diets, children's food and dog treats.

I did some research on za'atar and found that the Western biblical name for it is hyssop. I found both names on the Ta'am Vere'ach containers sold in the US.

– Maureen Stern, Haifa

The hyssop of the Bible is the subject of controversy. Some botanists claim it is wild marjoram. Since marjoram, oregano and hyssop are all from the same family, this is approximately, but not definitely, right.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: Phyllisfood@jpost.co.il.

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Fridays.

Wine Cellar

By NODA TARNOPOLSKY

Comfort food or good wine?

If I were a proper food, I think I'd be called the whipped cream of wine and fast food. I would be considered the ultimate comfort food.

And if it were considered a wine, I'd be called the ultimate comfort wine. As it is, I'm a little bit of both. I'm a wine that's as comforting as a warm blanket, and a fast food that's as satisfying as a good meal. I'm a wine that's as comforting as a warm blanket, and a fast food that's as satisfying as a good meal. I'm a wine that's as comforting as a warm blanket, and a fast food that's as satisfying as a good meal.

There is some discussion as to which wine is most appropriate for a good zabaglione. I find that any good wine – that is, any wine you would enjoy drinking – is worth a try. A dry red, for instance, is superb if you plan to drink the zabaglione before consuming it. When I was child, I enjoyed eating a version

of zabaglione called "yams," which in Spanish means "egg yolk." This was always a special treat. It consisted of a fresh yolk beaten with a small spoon in a glass beaker, into which my mother would add as much sugar as the yolk would absorb as it swelled. She would then add a teaspoon of brandy, smooth, thick and warm from the fire of the heating. This was one of my favorite desserts.

Today I tend to prefer more adult versions, with Marcella Hazan's topping the list. You can serve it topped with non-grape seeds, finely chopped walnuts, finely grated bitter chocolate or a dark red cherry.

larger one that contains shimmering water.

Put the egg yolks and sugar in the top of a large double boiler (off the heat) and whip the yolks with a whisk or electric mixer until they are pale and creamy.

Bring the water in the bottom of the double boiler to the brink of a simmer. Place the pot with the egg-yolk mixture inside the larger pot or fit the two parts of your double boiler together.

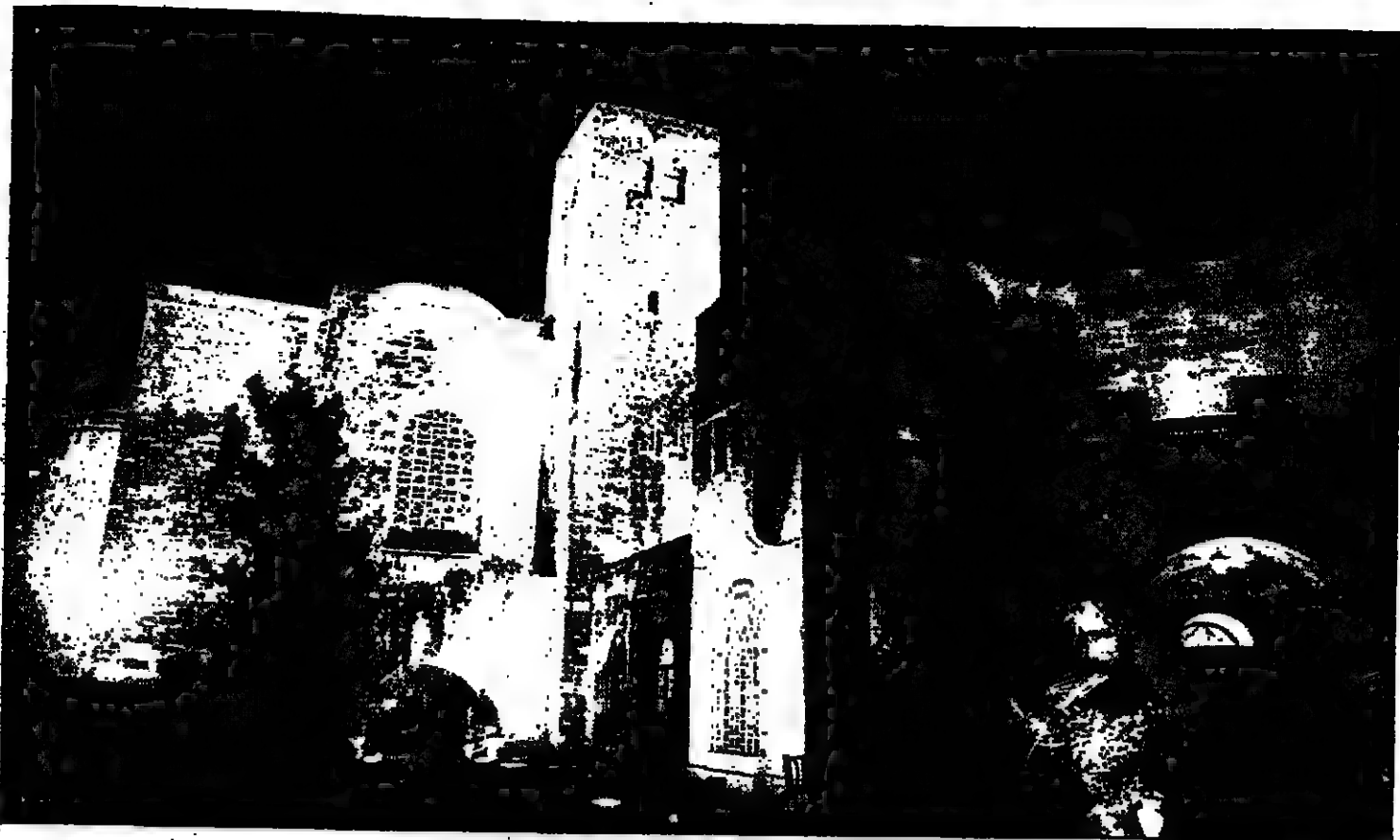
Add the marsala, beating constantly. The mixture will begin to foam and then swell into a soft, frothy mass. The zabaglione is ready when it has formed soft mounds, which will take up to 15 minutes.

Serve warm, either spooned into glass cups on its own or over sliced ripe fruit, such as strawberries, kiwi or mango. (Serves 6.)

מכאן תלמי

Day Tripper

By Haim Shapiro



St. Andrew's Church of Scotland was erected after World War I, but its new nighttime illumination creates the illusion of a centuries-old building. (Tav-Or)

Light up your nights

It wasn't that long ago when anyone who spoke about Jerusalem nightlife was joking. The only evening activity in those days was a late-night Talmud session, or the occasional midnight mass.

Although many young people continue to mean that there is nothing to do in Jerusalem, the city is now teeming with pubs and discotheques which are jammed to the gills on weekends.

But if dancing and/or drinking are not your idea of unwinding, try gazing at the city's newly lit historical sites. This week, the municipality and the East Jerusalem Development Corporation have illuminated nine more landmarks,

providing residents and visitors with a new perspective on familiar sites.

About a year-and-a-half ago the walls of the Old City were illuminated with the effects of the Citadel (commonly and mistakenly known as the Tower of David), where each detail seems to have been considered in the lighting plan. I am less happy with the effects at the Damascus Gate, where lights in each of the windows and openings seems to create a sort of Walt Disney effect.

This week's illumination includes St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, west of the Old City wall. The building, especially with

nighttime lighting, seems to be rooted in the centuries, even though it was only built after World War I. Mishkenot Sha'ananim is also attractive.

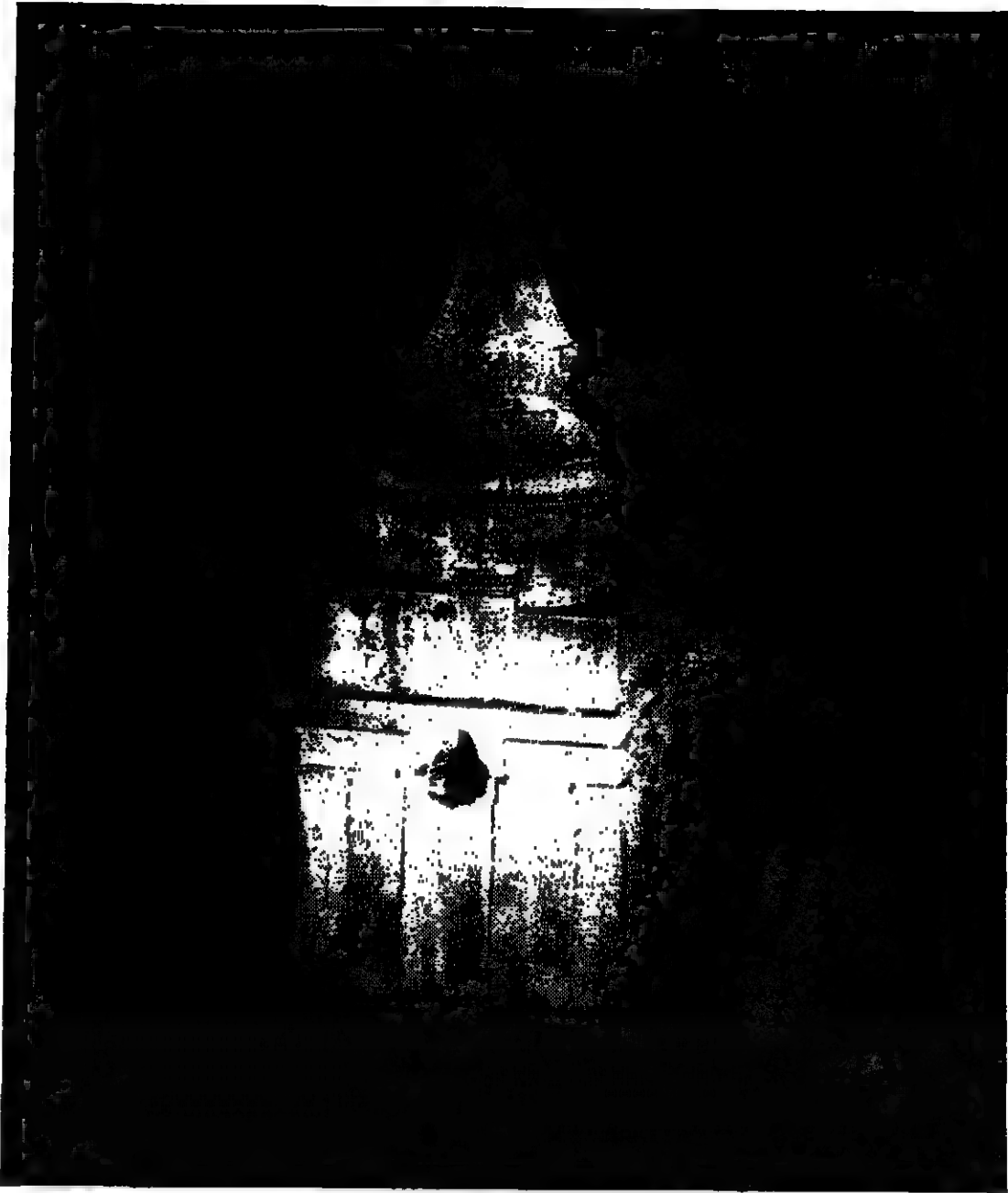
But for the real treasures, you have to go to the eastern side of the Old City. Park your car and walk along the newly built promenade. From here, Absalom's Pillar and the surrounding tombs are truly spectacular, although the graceful onion domes of the Russian Orthodox Convent of Mary Magdalene and the rather garish facade of the Roman Catholic Church of All Nations do compete for attention.

My favorite site from this spot is the Jewish cemetery on the Mt. of

Olives, which is so effectively lit you hardly realize there is any illumination. The whole area is washed with a pale glow resembling moonlight, creating a surreal, almost mystical feeling. The fact that black-clad haredim occasionally hold nighttime funerals or memorial gatherings here only adds to the effect.

Municipal officials said that the sites are to remain illuminated until 1 a.m. this week; however, they appeared uncertain as to whether their budget would allow them to maintain this schedule. If you want to ensure that you can see the landmarks, it would be best to visit them before midnight.

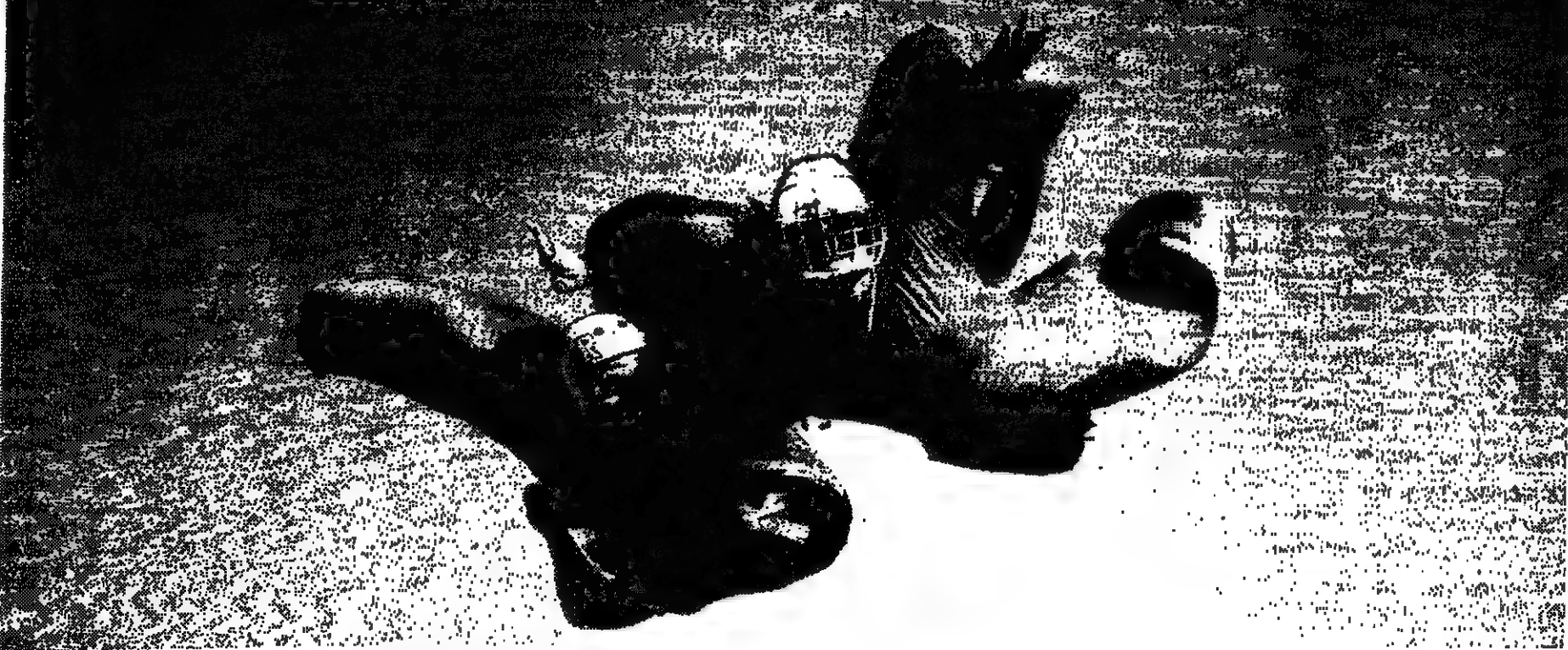
Weekender Travel



To fully appreciate the new illumination project, park your car on the eastern side of the Old City and walk along the recently constructed promenade. From here, enjoy spectacular views such as this one of Absalom's Pillar and surrounding tombs. (Tav-Or)

On a Limb

Look Ma, No hands!



By AMY KLEIN

There are the first-degree crazy people who jump out of planes. Second-degree crazy people just want to feel like they're doing it.

If you are of the latter group, you should go to the Airodium in Eilat and try a sport called "wind tunnel" flying, which actually consists of a giant fan blowing you up in the air.

As silly as it sounds, it looks even more ridiculous. You don a loose, brightly-colored Teflon suit, which helps you stay aloft by gathering air and makes you look like a neon marshmallow man.

You lie down in the center of a net, face down, stare at this gargantuan fan and feel like you're in an episode of *Batman*, about to be lowered into the "vat of doom."

Then they turn the fan on. Your body arches and parallel to the ground, you slowly begin to rise, two, three meters above the ground and - WHOOSH!

You're out of the wind tunnel, falling. You pull your knees, arms and chin to your chest, fetal position, and land on the puffy cushion that surrounds the net on all sides.

You get up, and this time, instead of lying over the wind tunnel waiting for it to lift you, you dive over it, catch the air, and "fly."

It's not flying exactly, nor is it

falling, because you are lifted and suspended by the air blowing at around 200 km/h. Imagine that you are riding a whale's jet stream, except instead of water, it's air. And it's great fun.

For NIS 135, you get 30 minutes of instruction - a video, a live demonstration of the flying position and practice crash landings - and 10 minutes in the Airodium. For NIS 640, you get a day in the Airodium - six flights and instruction on how to control the air and fly "solo."

The Airodium is called a "free-fall" simulator; skydivers and potential skydivers can practice in a controlled environment in conditions similar to those during a skydive. Eilat's Airodium is one of four around the world being used to teach skydiving. The Ritter family, owner of the Airodium, is also opening a new skydiving school - Skydiving Red Sea - 20 minutes north of Eilat.

Potential and real skydivers can learn to do tricks such as spins and turns, as well as climb up to 40 feet in the air. First-time flyers usually make it up to 10 feet, falling down in between tries. The more you expand your body by spreading your arms and legs, the more you take in and the higher you fly.

Can you be blown out of the Airodium - split - onto the Jordanian mountains or Israeli

hotels nearby?

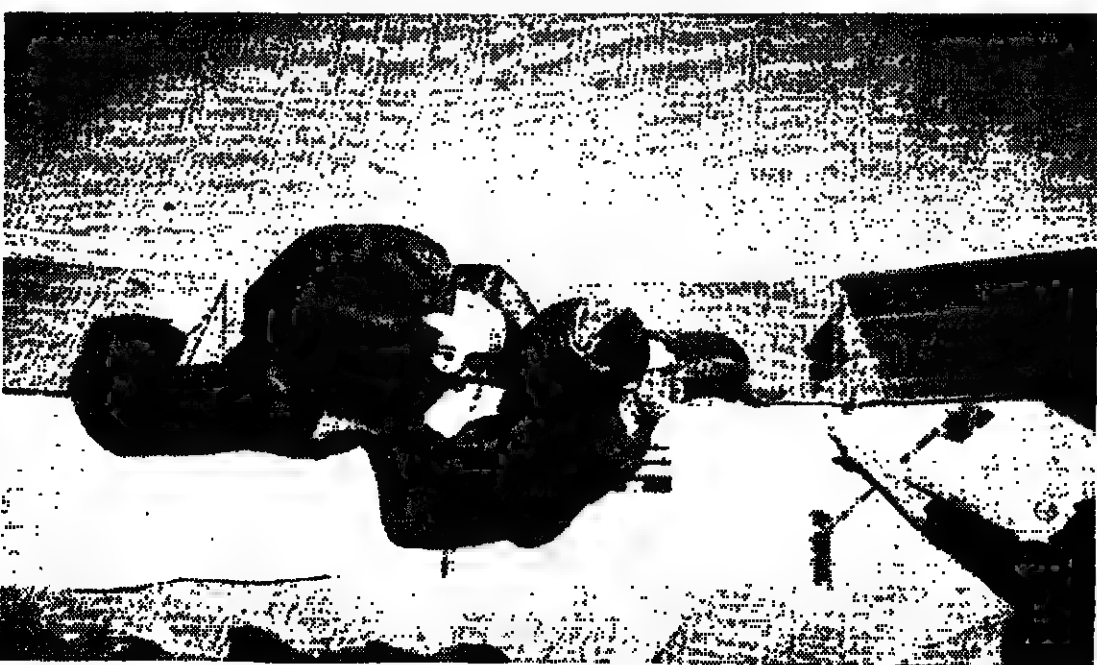
Impossible for one reason, explains 27-year-old instructor Roy Ritter: gravity. You fly only as high as the fan blows, and if you are out of the air stream's range you fall. The only injuries might be a sprained ankle or a dis-

located shoulder, the result of a bad landing - one probably not performed in the "crash landing" position they teach you.

Those are the risks. The gains are a few minutes of great fun; the feeling you had when you were a little kid and you jumped like crazy on your

parents' bed till the springs broke, tumbling in the air like popcorn.

But more than that, after your flight in the Airodium, what you might discover is that you're crazy in the first degree rather than the second, and that now what you really want to do is jump out of a plane.



Spread your wings: When they turn the gargantuan fan on, your body arches and you slowly begin to rise - two, three meters from the ground.

4 MORE ONE-DAY TRIPS

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- Monday Dec. 8 MEET THE MEDIA**
"Power without responsibility." We'll find out whether Stanley Baldwin's accusation is correct when we meet them all - Moshe Fogel, the Government Press Officer, Comy Moss of the Foreign Press Association and visit The Jerusalem Post, Ma'ariv, Galei Zahal and the TV studios. A full day of enlightenment with time for questions and maybe answers. Not to be missed. NIS 210 including lunch. Tour guide: Pia Rothstein
- Monday Dec. 15 "IN DEPTH" IN HAIFA**
Israel's power-house city is more than that as we'll show you. We'll visit the Persian Gardens at the Bahai Temple, the loveliest in the country, then the Templars area on the Carmel, settled in 1887, Beit Hagafen, the Jewish-Arab cultural center and the Technion, founded in 1924. We'll visit M.L.M., Israel's largest industrial park, home to over 30 hi-tech companies. We'll see Haifa port and harbor and sail in Haifa Bay, visit Stella Maris, the cave of Elijah, the Carmelite Monastery and much more. NIS 230 including lunch. Tour guide: Lior Shorer
- Sunday Dec. 21 DISCOVER THE GREEN LINE**
For many it's just a line on the map, but in the not too distant future it will be the main cause of confrontation. Come and speak to "green line residents" in Hashmonaim, Kiriat Sefer, Lapid, Maccabim, Modi'in, and Neve Shalom. If you are interested in Israel's future then don't miss this tour. NIS 210 including lunch. Tour guide: Historian Avi Ben-Hur
- Sunday Jan. 11 RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN**
Thousands of years of history - Greek, Roman, pagan, Jewish - now revealed for all to see. Theaters, temples, bath-houses, markets, frescoes, houses of ill-repute. All the beauty and cruelty that paganism offered. Even if you've been before, come again, because so much more has now been revealed, including the "Mona Lisa," in one of the world's most successful digs. NIS 200 including lunch. Tour guide: Gabi Mazor Head of Archeological Authority, Beit Shean.
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Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

Weekender Leisure

By DAVID BRAUNER

The world around us is full of familiar and odd subjects to collect on film. A photographic "collection" is an absorbing way of disciplining the eye.

Unlike, say, stamp or art collecting, creating a photographic collection is entirely personal and is a relatively inexpensive hobby you can pursue at any time or in any place.

Close-up flower photography is one of the most common photographic collectibles. In England I knew one devoted flower photographer who uprooted his family in the south to move near the Lake District in order to photograph the region's famous wild flowers. Roy Copson was far from wealthy, so he took a job as a college porter. But whenever he could, he was off making and collecting slides of flowers. From time to time he sold his images to calendar companies, but that was not his main goal. He simply loved photographing flowers.

Another amateur photographer acquaintance of mine collected portraits of famous people all over Britain. He'd simply write to actors, artists and musicians asking them if he could photograph them. To his surprise he often received positive responses, though his subjects' busy schedules often delayed sittings for weeks and months. Though his portrait collecting was strictly a hobby, his sitters naturally asked for a print or two against payment, which defrayed some of his expenses.

Photographic "illustrator" Werner Braun has nurtured a career-long love of photographing trees. He says that of the 18 books he's produced of his own work, the book that gives him the greatest



Collecting your thoughts

est satisfaction is his first, an anthology of gnarled old olive trees, published in 1954.

Art photographer Erwin Schenkelbach disclosed in a recent interview that he went through a phase of collecting pictures of

scarecrows which he found in the fields of Arab farmers. He was attracted by their angular shapes and long shadows. He called the series *Kantura* (Arabic for "scarecrow"). Minor White (1908-76), known

as America's "poet with a camera," made collections which he called "sequences." He said, "A sequence of photographs is like a cinema of stills." For example, "Sequence 4" was a set of close-ups of rock formations taken over a period of years in a single location.

Alfred Steiglitz (1864-1946) photographed clouds. A leader of the pictorialist art movement in American photography, Steiglitz called his photographs "equivalents," each of which he felt expressed a unique statement of his innermost feelings.

My own "collection" is of derelict cars. The best are dead, rusted-out vehicles, that have been stripped clean in wrecking yards or abandoned along roadsides and in fields. Often these wrecks have been in place so long that weeds have taken over their skeletal remains.

These abandoned hulks provide a limitless wealth of opportunities for photographs. There are bent fins, broken headlights and cruel gasches. Through smashed windows, the camera captures coiled seat springs and rags hanging from the inside roof. The engine compartment is usually devoid of all but a few pipes and electrical wires leading nowhere.

Though some of these cars may be remnants of terrible tragedies, as a photographer I see them as accidents of art that time and weather have transformed into textures and shapes far removed from the circumstances that brought them to where they lie. As a collection, the photographs take on a new life: the images somber reminders of our folly on the roads.

Another, perhaps less emotive theme for my photographic collections are bicycles in repose. The bars, wheels and spokes of bicycles leaning against walls and trees make attractive subjects for collecting.

Other ideas for picture collections might be the stone walls of Jerusalem, doors and door knockers, iron grillwork, and, now that winter is here, reflections in puddles or cloudy sunsets.

Photographers who are fortunate to live by the sea or in the desert or in rural settings have a treasure trove of collectibles in nature at their doorstep. The only limit on ideas is your imagination.

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: morir@mail.biu.ac.il or fax 02-563-7792 or c/o Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.

(Left from the bicycle collection; (above) from the derelict car collection)

David Brauner



If the shoe fits – buy it



By GREER FAY CASHMAN

What you see is not always what you get. Open a fashion magazine or go to a high-class fashion show and the models, for the most part, are wearing pointy-toed, spike-heeled shoes and boots.

But go shopping for footwear and you'll discover that pointed toes and spike heels are few and far between, and when they are available, they're usually in the upper price bracket.

The notable exceptions can be found in some of the many shoe stores located in the lower levels of Tel Aviv's central bus station. These outlets stock medium- to low-priced Spanish imports which are lovely to look at but murder to wear for anyone with a less-than-perfect foot.

The Cinderella story really hits home if your foot is a little on the wide side.

Israelis, especially those without a car, are more inclined toward sporty shoes with squared or almond-shaped toes, really solid high heels or flat heels.

Given the condition of most Israeli pave-



ments, that's not surprising. Even if the pavement is not in a state of disrepair, it's hazardous to the shoe itself and far from friendly to pedestrians who are wearing any kind of high heel.

Thus aesthetics are often sacrificed in the interests of comfort and safety.

Some of the fabulous shoe stores on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street and Kikar Hamedina and Ramat Gan's D Mall do have

the prettier shoes but you have to be prepared to pay over NIS 1,000.

The more businesslike shoes, such as those produced by Caligula or the Italian Accent imports sold here through the Accent chain, are only a fifth or a quarter of that price, but don't have the class of some of the upmarket Italian brands. Then again, if shoes are going to wear out, it's less heartbreaking when they're budget-



priced than when they're expensive. Now is actually a wonderful time to buy shoes. Summer leftovers are on sale for under NIS 100, and since winter sales have already started, whatever pair you had your eye on is likely to cost less next week than they did last week.

I'm a terrible tyrant on shoes, so when I find things that I really like on sale, especially when they're marked down to around NIS 100, I'll buy two or three pairs, even if I don't really need them. Sometimes I forget about them, and then comes that really important occasion when I can't afford to be seen in down-at-the-heel shoes. I go frantically scrambling through my shoe cupboard and come across a pleasant surprise – a pair I completely forgot about or barely wore. It's almost like winning the lottery.

(From left) A model for Nina Fashions wears a spike-heeled boot with a pointed toe; metallic-heeled pumps by Accent; and short, suede, zippered boots by Accent

Bridge

Norwegian wins best played hand award

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

North (Kaplan)
♠ 9 7 3
♥ K 7 6 2
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ 9 2

West East
♠ 8 4 ♠ Q J 10 5
♥ K Q J 8 4 ♥ A 10 5 3
♦ 5 ♦ 3
♣ K 10 7 5 3 ♣ Q J 6 4

South (Helgemo)
♠ A K 6 2
♥ —
♦ A Q J 9 7 4 2
♣ A 8

West North East South
2♥ pass 4♥ 6♦

Opening lead: ♥K

Geir Helgemo, at the age of 27, became the youngest player ever to win the "Le Bridgeur" award for the Best Played Hand of the Year. To appreciate what a nice play Helgemo made, try it yourself looking at all four hands. You are South, declarer, in six diamonds and West leads the king of hearts against your slam. How do you make 12 tricks? (Answer at conclusion.)

Helgemo learned the game at the age of 12 from his father, who he candidly admits "was not a good player." His first year, he partnered his father in the bridge club of the old copper town of Roros. At the age of 17, Helgemo represented Norway internationally for the first time at their Junior Team. After high school, he began to study computer engineering at the University of Trondheim, but, as is the nature of the "bridge addict," he dropped out to devote his time to the game he loved. He is now a columnist in Norway's leading newspaper, co-editor of a number of magazines, and a professional player.

Most recently (three weeks ago), Helgemo won the 1997 Politiken World Pairs in Copenhagen, partnered by Krzysztof Martens of Poland.

The award-winning play by Helgemo was written up by his partner on that occasion, Edgar Kaplan of New York. It occurred at this year's American Spring Nationals. (In early September, Kaplan, one of the bridge world's

most famous players and editor of *Bridge World* magazine, died.) Here's what Kaplan wrote: "My team had a rather short run in the Vanderbilt (the Spring Nationals knock-out team event), but there was a consolation prize at the finish. With a somewhat different team, Norman Kay and I won the concluding Open Swiss Teams. Our teammates were Bart Bramley, Brian Glubok, Geir Helgemo and Walter Schafer.

"Helgemo is the young Norwegian who has been producing superb results for the last five years. The reason for this became clear when I played a match with him and he produced a brilliant dummy-play on this deal, which hinged on an eight-spot."

"When an opposing weak two-bid is raised to game, the fourth player holding a good hand must guess well. Helgemo took a reasonable shot at six diamonds.

"He ruffed the opening heart lead, happy to have escaped a club lead. The diamond ace removed the missing trumps, and it was now necessary to score three spade tricks. (The object was to set up the fourth spade in the South hand, with which to discard one of dummy's two clubs. Then the eight of clubs could be ruffed in dummy.) The only obvious chance was a 3-3 split in spades, but Helgemo saw another possibility. He led a spade from the South hand to the seven, a rare finesse against an eight on the first round.

"East made a tricky play by winning with the jack and returning the five. Helgemo guessed what was happening. He played low from his hand, won with dummy's nine, and threw dummy's club loser on the fourth round of spades to make a slam that failed at the other table.

"There were two psychological clues to this remarkable winning play. East's spade return was slightly suspicious, since he could obviously have led a heart. And if West had been able to win the third trick (which a spade was led toward the 9-7-3), he might have done so, or at least hitched fractionally.

"None of the experts who were shown South's problem found the solution, and all were in awe of Helgemo's effort. If East had returned an obvious heart at the fourth trick (after winning the spade trick), South could still have succeeded by ruffing, crossing to dummy and leading the spade 9."

Matthew Granovetter can be reached at gran@nervision.net.il

Chess

The lure of the spectacle

By NIGEL SHORT

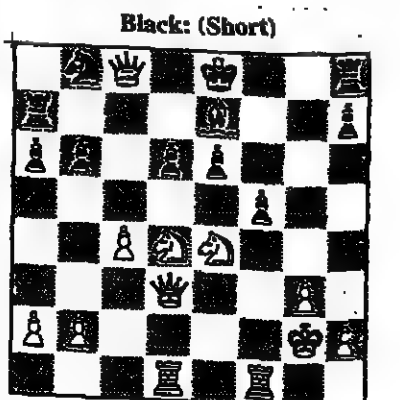
Draws are a permanent but oft lamented feature of chess. I suppose this is why the inimitable Spanish organizer, Luis Rentero from Linares, Andalusia, has attempted in the past, to exact fines from players who fail to produce a sufficiently satisfying quantity of carnage.

Actually, Rentero has something of a point. He is in tune with the public desire to have a spectacle in which the combatants are either gored or skillfully put to the sword (metaphorically speaking, you understand).

Rentero's motives may be good, but I fear his sledgehammer approach to this problem has its, er, drawbacks. Firstly, it should be understood that a draw is the normal outcome when both sides play correctly. A handicap? Possibly, but this has not diminished interest in soccer and cricket. Second, his view implies that draws are inherently devoid of merit. I don't agree. Here is a quick grandmaster draw of the type he has tried to ban so that you can judge for yourselves.

White: Tal
Black: Short
Naesved, 1985
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 e6 6.Nc3 a6 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 d6. In those days I was fond of prickly hedgehog formations. Later I discovered that they are prone to being squashed. 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Bxd6 Bxd6 11.Qd3 Ra7 preparing a lateral defense. 12.Rad1 Be7 13.Nd4 Bxg2 14.Kxg2 Qc8. Typical of the airy-fairy measures one has to resort to in such positions. Black intends 15...Rc7 with pressure down the c-file, but development is still a problem. 15.f4. It was here that I observed that f5 was a very strong positional threat so I

decided to stop it dead in its tracks. 15...g6 16.f5! By now I was reflecting that my opponent's reputation, as one of the greatest attacking geniuses of all time, was not entirely undeserved. Still, no need to panic just yet. 16...gxf5 17.e4 fxe4 18.Nxe4 f5! Spotting that 18...Nc6 19.Rxf7!! Kxf7 20.Qf3+ Kg7 (20...Ke8? 21.Nxc6 Qxc6 22.Nf6+) 21.Qg4+ Kf7 22.Nxe6 was a ferocious onslaught, I had found the only defense.



19.Ng5!! But I completely overlooked this. 19...Bxg5 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Rde1 Qxe1 22.Rxe1+ Re7 23.Qd4! An annoying *zischenschiz* which left me floundering in search of coordination. 23...Rg8! Correct! 23...Rf8 24.Rxe7+ Bxe7 (24...Kxe7? 25.Qg7+) 25.Qxb6 Kf7 26.b4 was much worse. 26.Rxe7+ Kxe7 25.Qxb6 Na7 shedding another pawn but activating the knight. 26.Qxa6 Rb8! 27.b3 Be3 28.Qc6. A curious equilibrium has been attained. White's passed pawns are halted but black has no clear plan. After a long think I could find nothing better than 28...Ne5 29.Qc7+ Nd7 30.Qc6 Ne5 with a draw.

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مكتبة الناصر

Thursday,
December 4, 1997

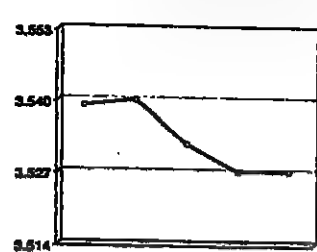
BUSINESS & FINANCE

15

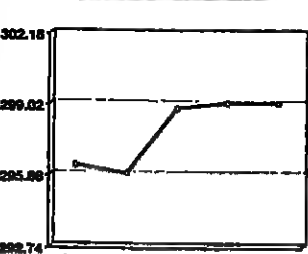
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL*

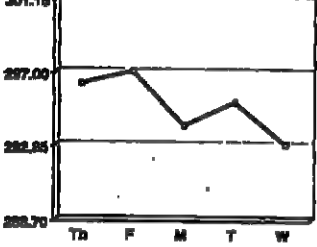


MAOF INDEX*



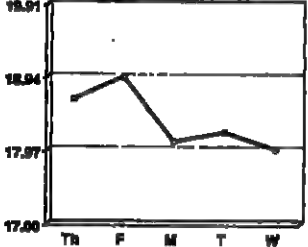
GOLD

\$ per ounce



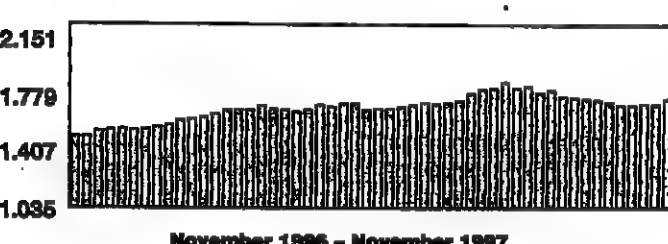
OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude

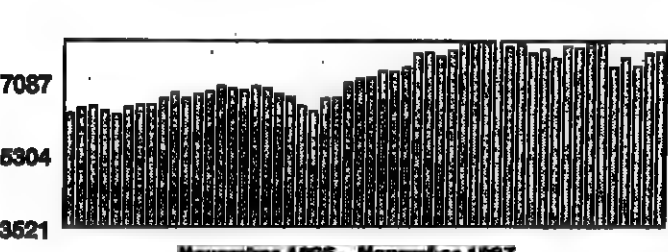


*TASE/Shekel did not trade yesterday due to strike.

DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Diamond exports increase 2%

Net polished diamond exports increased 2% to \$385 million last month, compared to November last year, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced this week. The total for the first 11 months reached \$3,908 billion, a 4% increase. There was a 12% decline in raw diamond exports since January, to \$856m. *David Harris*

Proposal would force banks to reveal charges

A draft amendment to the Banking Law, proposed by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor), yesterday won the support of the Ministerial Committee on Legislation. The amendment would require banks to send customers a quarterly report, written in lay terms and explaining what was charged for those three months and what charges should be expected in the coming quarter. The committee, chaired by Justice Minister Tzvi Hanegbi, said it hoped this measure would make the banks more competitive, while helping customers find out what they are paying for. *Batsheva Tsur*

Multinationals step up Karmi preparations

Siemens has advised the Palestinian Authority of its willingness to set up a factory in the Karmi Industrial Park in Gaza, *Globes* reported last night. Negotiations with multi-national companies, including Peugeot and Volkswagen, to set up factories in the park are also at an advanced stage. The negotiations are being conducted by the Peres Peace Center. Delta Galil CEO Dov Lautman is examining setting up a factory in the park, for export to the Marks & Spencer chain. He said that the Palestinians' terms make the park very competitive, even compared to joint ventures in Jordan or Egypt. *David Harris*

Frenkel makes one day trip to Paris

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel last night addressed a gala dinner hosted by the France-Israel Chamber of Commerce, alongside French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Frenkel was scheduled to speak about the Israeli economy and its integration into Europe. Earlier this week, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said in a world where several economic blocks are forming, Israel must look to greater ties with Europe. *David Harris*

International panel for conference

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a host of international politicians, including Jawad Anani, Jordan's deputy prime minister for development, will speak in Tel Aviv next week at a conference staged by the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy. The organization, under the auspices of US economist Michael Porter, aims to encourage Israel and its neighbors to work together. *David Harris*

Car imports continue to drop

The number of vehicles imported shrank 17.1% to 10,020 last month, in comparison to November 1996, according to data published this week by the Treasury. Since January, car imports were down 7.8% to 110,570. In the first 11 months, there were also declines in imports of televisions (9.5%) and video recorders (3%). However, there were increases in imports of refrigerators (7%), washing machines (1.6%), and dishwashers (5.4%). *David Harris*

Japanese economy rebounds slightly

Japan's economy showed a slight rebound in the third quarter after shrinking sharply in the previous quarter due to a rise in the national sales tax, the government's Economic Planning Agency said yesterday. Gross domestic product - the total output of goods and services, minus net income from overseas production - rose a real 0.8% in the quarter. That was the same as a 3.1% rise on an annualized basis. *Reuters*

IMF OKs \$55b. Korea bailout plan

By BILL AUSTIN

Seoul - South Korea was offered at least \$55 billion from the International Monetary Fund, the US, Japan and others in what will be the largest economic rescue ever mounted.

The country, which has world's 11th-largest economy, will probably forfeit jobs and years of economic growth in return to help in shoring up its bankrupt financial and industrial companies. The rescue will dwarf the one arranged for Mexico almost three years ago and those mustered this year for Thailand and Indonesia.

The IMF-led bailout, sealed yesterday in Seoul after seven days of negotiations and several false alarms, is unlikely to provide a quick fix for the Korea's battered financial markets. After a record 15,000 companies filed for bankruptcy this year, more may go under as the economy slows.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus, who arrived in the Korean capital Tuesday night, said he was confident that the "far-reaching" reforms Korea agreed to will help the economy recover.

"I am confident this program will also contribute to the needed return of stability and growth in the region," Camdessus said.

Among other things, Korea agreed to accept slower growth and lower public spending. It will also open its financial markets wider to foreign investors.

The agreement, which was widely expected by investors, came less than two weeks after Korea said it would have to turn to the IMF for the first time. So far this year, seven of the countries 40 sprawling conglomerates, known as chaebol, collapsed or are unable to pay their debts.

"It's going to be a severe downturn and it's just getting underway," said Jin Park, a portfolio manager at Struems Susskind, a hedge fund based in Santa Monica, California, which has \$350 million under management.

The corporate failures saddled Korean banks and finance companies with more than \$20 billion of bad debts. As the bankruptcies mounted, concern spread that the country's entire financial system might be at risk.

Eventually, the central bank, unable to keep the Korean won from falling to record low after record low, abandoned a defense of the currency that had eroded its foreign-exchange reserves.

The size of the bailout underscores the importance of Korea to global financial markets. Foreign banks have about \$200 billion of loans and investments, and

Korea's foreign debt is among Asia's most widely held. Korean banks and finance companies are also big investors in emerging markets such as Russia and Latin

between and Lim and Camdessus on what policy conditions would be attached.

Camdessus said he will ask the IMF executive board to support

"while Korea remains in compliance with the Fund arrangement," he said.

The agreement took seven days of arduous negotiations, and sev-

"You're talking a quantum leap up the economic food chain," said Hank Morris, research director at Coryo Securities Ltd. "It would be absurd for them to offer the money and just walk away."

Mexico, the beneficiary of the largest previous bailout, required \$26.2 billion to cover its short-term debts in 1995.

The bailout will come at a stiff price.

Korea agreed to accept the slowest economic growth for 18 years, throw open its financial markets to foreign investors and revamp its crippled banking industry. The money will be used to cover at least \$21 billion of foreign currency debt that matures this year.

"Companies now experiencing financial problems are the weak ones. This could spread to stronger companies as growth slows and liquidity remains tight," said Park.

Even so, the policy concessions may not be enough for the US and other participants who must justify extending aid to Korea to their own constituents.

Korea's dire financial situation and the promise of tougher times came seemed on the verge of claiming another victim today. Halla Group, Korea's 12th-largest conglomerate or chaebol, said it may file for bankruptcy protection after missing \$321 million in debt payments yesterday. The group avoided insolvency with support from its creditor, Korea Exchange Bank, and Hyundai Group.

Stocks halted a nine-day slide yesterday, with a late rally led by Korea Electric Power Corp. and banks. The rebound came after the state-owned Yonhap News Agency said Korea will almost double the stake foreign investors can take in public companies, to 50 percent by the end of this year.

Banks rallied on optimism that Korea successfully resisted IMF pressure to close banks whose non-performing loans exceed their shareholders equity.

The benchmark KOSPI share index rose 0.7% to 379 points, still its lowest since April 1987. The Korean won also strengthened, gaining almost 3.0% against the dollar.

Several banks rose by more than 8.0% limit, including Kookmin Bank, Cho Hung Bank and Commercial Bank of Korea.

"After you adjust for non-performing loans there is no shareholder equity left in any Korean bank," said Tim Julien, who manages international equities at Mercantile Mutual Investment Management Ltd. in Sydney. (Bloomberg)



Pupils at Seoul's Sangmyung elementary school line up with US dollar notes yesterday during a campaign collecting dollars to help ease South Korea's currency crisis. (AP)

America.

The agreement came after Korean Finance Minister Lim Chang Yuel and Bank of Korea Governor Lee Kyung Shik signed a letter of intent summarizing the economic steps Korea will take in return for the bailout.

The agreement was on hold most of the day as talks continued

the economic program with a three-year standby credit of \$21 billion. He said the president of the World Bank offered to provide up to \$10 billion and the Asian Development Bank \$4 billion. In addition, the US, Japan, Germany, France, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia are ready to supply at least \$20 billion

eral false alarms, a reflection of the monumental stakes involved: Refuse aid to Korea and the result may be a domino effect of banks scrambling to recall loans. But hand over \$55 billion without exacting huge concessions, and other countries may think having a messy financial house is no real problem.

Greenspan sees end to Asia crisis

By LAURA COHN
and VINCENT DEL GIUDICE

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan predicted Asia's financial crisis will be resolved and lead to a stronger global economy - as long as Asian leaders avoid "wishful thinking" and open their markets to the "full force of competition."

"While the adjustments may be difficult for a time, these crises will pass," Greenspan said in a speech late Tuesday to The Economic Club of New York. "Stronger individual economies and a more robust and efficient international economic and financial system will surely emerge" as Asian policymakers make changes.

The Fed chairman offered no time line for this recovery, and he didn't address the impact of the crisis on the US economy. And unlike his market-rattling comment in

a speech a year ago this week, he issued no warnings about "irrational exuberance" or the level of US stock indexes. The dollar and US Treasury bonds were little changed in Asian trading.

Overall, "it was an upbeat message with some warnings" about what countries must do to pull themselves out of crisis, including restructuring of their banking systems, said Raymond K. Price Jr., president of the Economic Club of New York. Greenspan's hosts for the evening.

Greenspan said Asian leaders must abandon a system where governments played too large a role in deciding which industries received loans from highly leveraged banks - and then didn't take proper actions when the loans soured.

"Individual companies should be allowed to default, private investors should take their losses," Greenspan said. "New growth

opportunities must be allowed to emerge."

In a question session after the speech, Greenspan said "asset price deflation is the really violent problem that we should all be concerned about. And there, the difference between inflation and deflation intertwine since it is exceptionally difficult to get asset deflation without first getting asset inflation. The Japanese experiences of recent years clearly exhibit both sides of that equation."

Greenspan also said the discipline of financial markets will force Asian political leaders to make the changes he suggested must be made.

Restoring banking systems to financial health must be a priority, he said, and on that score he chided Japan. Unlike emerging markets, where many banks are in "poor shape," Greenspan said, banking systems in most developed nations "appear reasonably solid. Japan has been somewhat of an exception,

but there have been some positive signs there, as well. Banks have been recognizing losses and the government seems finally to be appropriately addressing their problems."

Once Asian nations address their lending lapses, "There is no reason that above-average growth in countries that are still in a position to gain from catching up with the prevailing technology cannot persist for a very long time, providing their markets opened to the full force of competition," he said.

Greenspan's comments essentially endorse the belt-tightening being demanded by the International Monetary Fund for South Korea. While Seoul has heeded the IMF's urgings to close troubled merchant banks, it has been talking at a demand to shutter commercial banks holding \$20 billion in bad debts - underscoring a theme in Greenspan's address. (Bloomberg)

Treasury approves emergency IAI package

Transport Ministry about to publish public transport tenders

The Finance Ministry has agreed to postpone the incorporation of Israel Aircraft Industries' aircraft inspection division and its stock exchange issue as part of an emergency package for the ailing company, according to sources in the ministry.

However, the Treasury insisted on its demand that a quarter of the shares in IAI subsidiary Elta be issued early next year. The process

will commence in the next few days.

An agreement to this effect was reached yesterday at a special meeting to discuss IAI's cash flow and working capital crisis, attended by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and a host of senior civil servants.

Elta will be issued on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, and the state hopes to obtain \$40-\$50m. from the sale of 25% of its shares to the public.

Treasury Director-General Shmuel Slavin said that an emergency government aid package had been put together for IAI, in conjunction with the banks. The government will inject NIS 18m. into the company over the next few weeks, while the banks have agreed to extend guarantees amounting to NIS 25m. This will enable IAI to pay November's salaries on December 8.

Meanwhile, the Transport Ministry is expected to publish, in a matter of weeks, the first tenders to privatize public transit lines controlled by the large coopera-

tives.

This would involve total privatization of the lines controlled by Egged in Ashdod, Tiberias, Dimona and Kiryat Sefer. Until now, private entrepreneurs have been granted public transit lines only in Modi'in.

Netanyahu recently stated a number of times that he plans to initiate accelerated privatization of public transit.

The ministry has not yet set the terms of the tender, and it is not clear if participants will be allowed to compete for all the lines at once. The ministry plans to publish all the tenders together.

The Ashdod and Dimona lines are considered profitable, while the Tiberias lines generally are not, according to industry sources. The private public transportation companies will have to compete both in price and service quality. Neither Egged or Dan will be allowed to bid.

During the course of 1998 and the coming years, the ministry plans to privatize other lines. The government has already decided that 40% o. all bus transportation is to be privatized. (Globe)

Israeli-British group to aid PA economy

By DAVID HARRIS

Members of the Israel-Britain Business Council pledged yesterday to work to aid the Palestinian economy through a series of measures approved yesterday in Tel Aviv.

Top business people from the two countries met last night with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to inform him of their desire to aid the peace process and to attract British investors to Israel.

The organization, set up by former prime ministers John Major and Yitzhak Rabin and jointly chaired by Marks and Spencer Chairman Sir Richard Greenberry and Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper, agreed to the following steps:

- Underpinning the peace process by developing joint working ventures between the two countries and third parties, especially the PA, Jordan and Egypt.

- Intensifying the activities of the IBBC's ongoing joint working parties in areas including high-tech, tourism and health care.

- Broadening IBBC membership to include more senior business executives.

- Selecting joint projects that would involve the participation of the PA, Jordan and Egypt. Next

year the focus will be on the Karmi industrial park in Gaza.

- Initiating a tripartite meeting of British, Israeli and PA businessmen.

- Promoting and facilitating the role of Israeli companies in British Government procurement.

- Adopting the Tel Aviv Metro as a priority project next year.

- Possibly aiding the PA in establishing a mortgage system, including legal and collection support.

The Israeli government already has approved 1998 funding for the IBBC, and a statement from the organization says it expects a similar move on the part of the British.

"There are more than a few [British] companies that have expressed interest in bilateral work [with the PA], where we can supply the both the Middle East base and the technology and they can supply the market and the finances," said Propper.

Israeli exports to the UK rose 27 percent in the first nine months to \$1.2 billion, however imports shrank 6.5% to \$1.9b.

Greenberry, whose M&S chain this week ended its relationship with its Israeli franchisee MSIF, yesterday refused to talk to the media.

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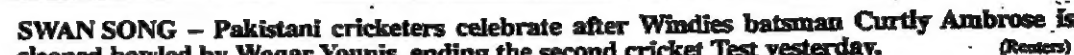
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It is customary for nations to exchange decorations on such occasions. Honorary knight-hoods are given to recognize achievements from outside the Queen's jurisdiction.

	18	19	20	21	22
Has, Dec.	18	19	20	21	22
Hartman, Ma.	18	19	20	21	22

FG Percentage	FG	FGA	FT	FT%
Oswine, Bri.	40	90	62	
O'Neal, Lal	78	38	468	
Nowinski, Dru.	49	85	576	
Ortiz, Chic.	47	117	573	
Jones, Lal	113	199	568	
Duncan, S.A.	166	167	567	
Manning, Phoe.	76	139	561	
Hollis, Ind.	77	158	558	
Murray, EAC	100	182	549	
Parke, Hanc.	53	97	546	

Rebounds	G	OFF	TOT	AVG
Barley, Ron.	10	48	84	132
				13.2

Williams, Art.	16	58	145	203	27.7
Wilkinson, H.J.	14	108	95	203	22.7
Robinson, A.L.	16	77	177	180	11.8
Saborn, Port.	15	37	159	176	11.7
Garrett, Den.	13	57	92	149	11.5
Duncan, S.A.	16	41	137	178	11.1
Marshall, G.L.	14	64	88	152	10.9
Malone, Utah	16	46	124	172	10.3

Assists	G	AST	AVG
Strickland, Wash.	14	180	11.3
Payton, Sea.	16	158	9.9
Kidd, Phila.	12	115	9.6
Stogdemon, Tex.	16	143	8.9

Farbury, Nags	15	126	8.4
Jackson, Ind.	14	117	8.4
Knight, Opa	13	109	8.4
Gissel, N.J.	16	125	7.8
Hill, Des.	16	123	7.7

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

Inside

Pakistan
humble
Windies

Page 18

Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Israel
whips
Danes

By ELI GRONER

The Israeli national basketball team jumped out to a comfortable lead, before cruising to a 95-76 away victory over Denmark in Fredricksberg last night. The win gave Israel a perfect 3-0 record in the semifinals of the European Championship's preliminary round, while the loss left Denmark still looking for its first triumph.

The qualifying competition will resume on February 25. The excellent start to the competition is due to the influence of new coach Muli Katzurin. His two conceptual decisions have already borne fruit: the addition of Guy Goodes to the roster, and handing the point guard reins exclusively to Doron Sheffer. Goodes (nine points, 11 assists) and Sheffer (16 points) were both instrumental in Israel's win last night.

Katurin's club got a break when the Danes' two biggest stars, Mikael Larsen and Michael Anderson, would not be released for the game by their Greek club, AAK Athens.

The Danes' third best player, Joakim Jericho, was guarded by defensive ace Nadav Henefeld, who limited the 19.5 points-per-game scorer to just two first-half points (13 overall).

It was clear from the outset that Israel was going to garner the victory. Sheffer and Oded Katash (16 points) sparked the Israelis to an early 25-11 advantage. From that point on, the balanced Israeli squad proved to be too deep for the Danes, as it weathered foul trouble to both Henefeld and Gur Shelef (14 points).

European Championships

	W	L	P
Israel	3	0	6
Spain	2	0	4
England	1	1	3
Belarus	1	1	3
Denmark	0	3	2
Ukraine	0	3	2

SCOREBOARD

Alex Hagan signed with Watford of the English second division yesterday. He will join Israel international Ronnie Rosenthal there.

In Premier League action last night, West Ham United beat Crystal Palace 4-1 (West Ham United — John Harrison 31, Eyal Berkovic 45, David Unsworth 48, Steve Lomas 71, Crystal Palace — Neil Shipperley 41).

Knicks blow another 4th-quarter lead

Spurs rally behind
Robinson, Duncan
to beat NY 90-84

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Robinson and Tim Duncan scored 23 points apiece to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a come-from-behind 90-84 victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday.

It was the sixth loss of the season for the Knicks, who have blown fourth-quarter leads in all of their defeats.

Robinson added 14 rebounds and five blocks, and Duncan had 13 rebounds to go along with his career-high in points. Vinny Del Negro added a season-high 16 points for San Antonio, which won despite shooting 25-of-45 at the free throw line.

Charlotte 121
Sacramento 102

Glen Rice scored 14 of his 30 points in the third quarter and host Charlotte had a franchise-record 41 assists.

Wizards 95, SuperSonics 78
The Washington Wizards finally won a home game, opening their new \$200 million arena with a victory that snapped Seattle's seven-game winning streak.

Juwan Howard and reserve Tracy Murray had 18 points apiece for Washington, which lost all five of its games at the US Airways Arena this season.

It was 74-63 after the third quarter, and the Wizards pulled away by opening the final period with a

12-5 spree that made it 86-68.

Hawks 112, Mavericks 79
Steve Smith scored a season-high 28 points, 18 in the first half, and visiting Atlanta eased to its fourth straight victory.

Dikembe Mutombo, Christian Laettner and Ed Gray all added 15 points as the Hawks improved their league-best record to 15-2 with their largest margin of victory this season.

Rockets 112, Nuggets 101
Charles Barkley had 15 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds for the 20th triple-double of his career as Houston won at home.

Barkley, leading the NBA with 13 rebounds per game, was joined by five teammates in double figures.

Suns 90, Bucks 86
Rex Chapman's jumper with 23 seconds left and his two free throws seconds later gave Phoenix a road victory.

George McCloud scored a season-high 16 points in his first start of the season, including a big 3-pointer to tie the game at 86-86 with 57.9 seconds left.

Magic 89, Trail Blazers 88
Penny Hardaway scored 29 points and Orlando, despite blowing a 10-point lead late in the fourth quarter, defeated host Portland.

Suddenly, downtown
DC comes alive

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Appropriately, Washington sports mogul Abe Pollin dedicated his new downtown arena Tuesday night with a Shehehiyanu-like prayer. Standing at centercourt prior to the tip-off between his Wizards and the Seattle SuperSonics, Pollin told the 20,000 fans in attendance that he had much to be thankful for — "most of all, to the good Lord for letting me see this day."

Pollin, the most senior owner in the NBA and a close friend of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said later he was not intending anything spiritual but was grateful for the 18 years he has lived since a quadruple bypass surgery and "that the Lord has let me be healthy to see the opening of this beautiful building."

The MCI Center's initiation was a grand affair, complete with a red carpet outside, a pre-game laser display, a costumed wizard bungee-jumping out the court from the ceiling, a colorguard and the Star-Spangled Banner played by saxophonist Branford Marsalis. Tuxedoed staff greeted patrons. And — yes — there was the game, with President Bill Clinton cheering on the Wizards' 95-78 victory in Pollin's private suite.

Pollin, who is Jewish, also moved his Capitals hockey team from the suburbs into the arena. He hopes that the arena will revitalize the old downtown shopping district that now consists of shuttered stores with little nightlife to offer. Local officials hope fans will travel by subway to the games and alleviate congestion on the city's streets.

During the second quarter he strolled the concourse with team president Susan O'Malley. Fans called out, "Thank you, Mr. Pollin." "Nice place!" and "Thank you, Abe."

On the eve of his 74th birthday, a tired Pollin visited the locker room afterwards. He called the inaugural event "a great achievement, great for the city."

Asked whether he plans to visit Israel again soon, Pollin looked ahead to yet another building project. "I'm on the committee to design the new arena in Jerusalem. When they call on me, I'll go."



NO WAY OUT — Nuggets' LaPhonso Ellis looks to pass after grabbing a loose ball. Rockets' Clyde Drexler looms over the prostrate Ellis. Houston beat Denver 112-101.

Maple Leafs to move
to Northeast Division

PALM BEACH (AP) — The Toronto Maple Leafs will join traditional rivals Montreal and Boston in the National Hockey League's Northeast Division beginning next season.

The league's Board of Governors approved Toronto's move from the Central Division on Tuesday.

Under the plan, the Columbus Blue Jackets will join the Central Division instead of the Northeast when they enter the league in 2000. Expansion Nashville, which begins play next year, had been assigned to the Central.

The Maple Leafs will join the Canadiens, Bruins, Buffalo Sabres and Ottawa Senators in the Northeast.

The league voted in June to expand to Columbus, Nashville, Atlanta and the Twin Cities. Nashville will be the first entry. Atlanta will join in 1999, and the Twin Cities and Columbus complete the expansion in the fall of 2000.

The NHL will then have 30 teams, with six divisions of five teams. The league earlier decided to add two new divisions next season.

Avalanche bury
Oilers behind Forsberg

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado Avalanche beat the Edmonton Oilers again. The Ottawa Senators did the same against the New York Islanders.

Peter Forsberg scored two goals as the Avalanche beat the Oilers 4-2 Tuesday night. Colorado is 10-0-1 against Edmonton in their last 11 regular-season meetings.

The Senators held the Islanders to 16 shots in a 4-2 victory that extended Ottawa's unbeaten streak against New York to seven games (4-0-3).

Capitals 3, Rangers 2
Joe Juneau scored the game-winner for visiting Washington with 1:15 left in overtime.

The Rangers appeared headed for their NHL-leading 10th tie before goalie Mike Richter mis-played the puck in the crease on Juneau's goal.

Richter first stopped a shot by Steve Konowalchuk, but came out of his crease to clear and sent the puck onto Konowalchuk's stick.

The Capitals left wing sent the puck to Juneau, who shoveled it into an open net with a Rangers defender hanging on him.

Blues 3, Devils 1
Craig Conroy set up all of St. Louis' goals as the Blues snapped a season-high five-game winless streak with a victory at New Jersey.

Leafs 3, Mighty Ducks 3
Ruslan Salei's goal with 4:06 remaining gave visiting Anaheim a tie.

English, US fear
World Cup repeat

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — Oh no, not again. Another England vs. Germany confrontation could be looming in today's World Cup draw and there's every chance the US will meet 1994 opponent Colombia again.

FIFA's organizing committee for next year's championship arranged the 32 nations into four pools of teams, eight of them seeded and the other 24 separated geographically rather than on performance.

It left England out of the seeds and that sets up the possibility of a meeting with Germany in the first round series of group games. The 32 nations will be drawn into eight groups of four at the ceremony at the Stade Velodrome today and 16 will go out in the first round of the June 10-July 12 championship.

Whenever the England and Germans meet on a soccer field in a major tournament, there's always drama. England beat Germany 4-2 after extra time in the 1966 final, and the Germans triumphed in penalty shootouts in the 1990 semifinal and the 1996 European Championship semifinal.

"If we'd been seeded it would've made the path a bit easier," England coach Glenn Hoddle said in reaction to Tuesday's announcement. Hoddle's team will now face any one of eight tough opponents in the first round.

Defending titlist Brazil and host France were automatically seeded and the organizing committee added European champion Germany, three-time World Cup champion and 1994 runner-up Italy, two-time champion Argentina, Spain, Romania and the Netherlands.

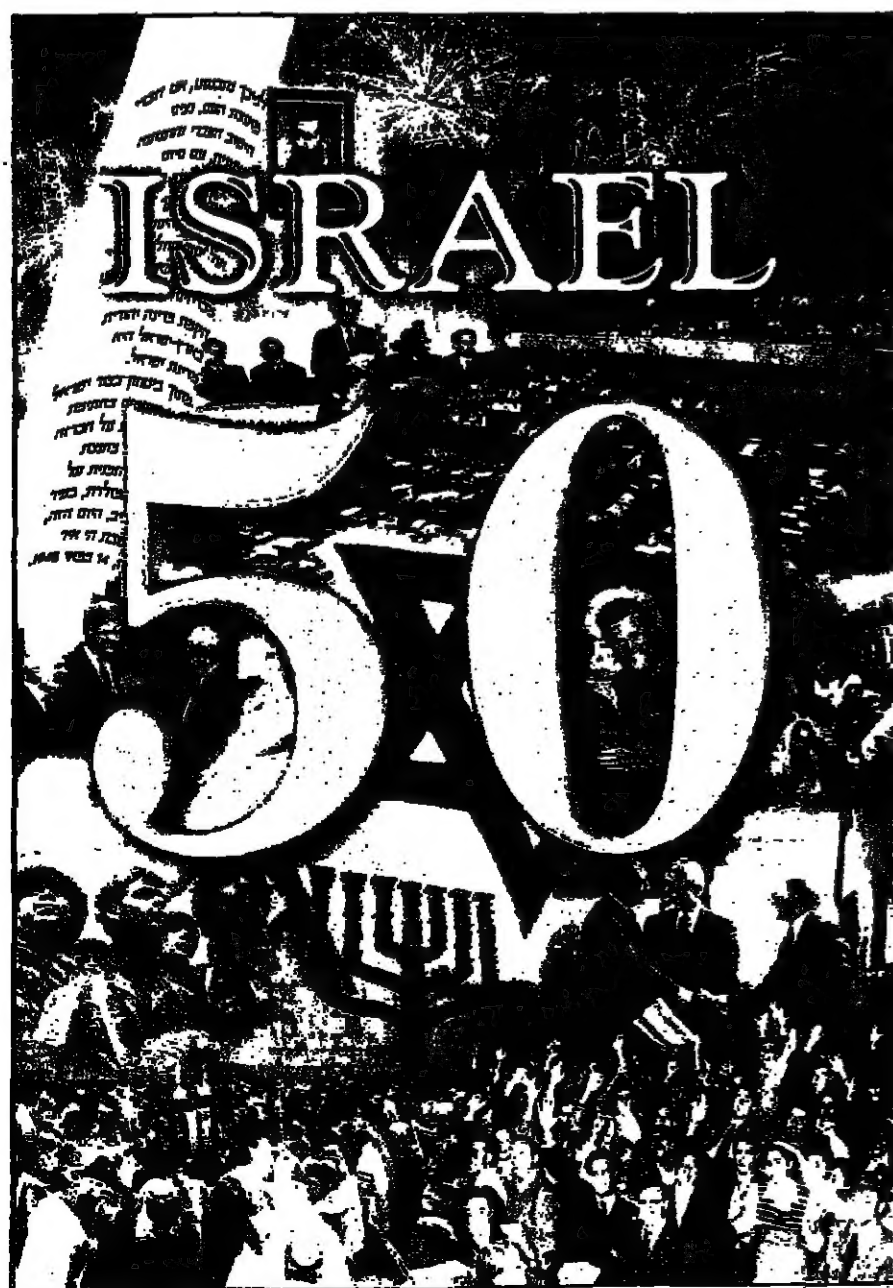
The remaining teams were pooled in a way that opens up some intriguing matchups.

The organizing committee decided to put the five African nations, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, Tunisia, and Morocco, in with the north and central American (CONCACAF) teams, the US, Mexico and Jamaica.

The three unseeded South American teams, Paraguay, Colombia and Chile, would be in the same pot as the four Asian teams, South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

That would leave the nine remaining European nations, England, Denmark, Bulgaria, Spain, Yugoslavia, Norway, Belgium, Croatia, Austria and Scotland in one pot on their own, thus making sure that eight avoid each other.

The Americans look pretty certain to meet a South American team again. At the last World Cup, they scored a 2-1 victory over Colombia and then lost 1-0 to the eventual champion Brazil.



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